

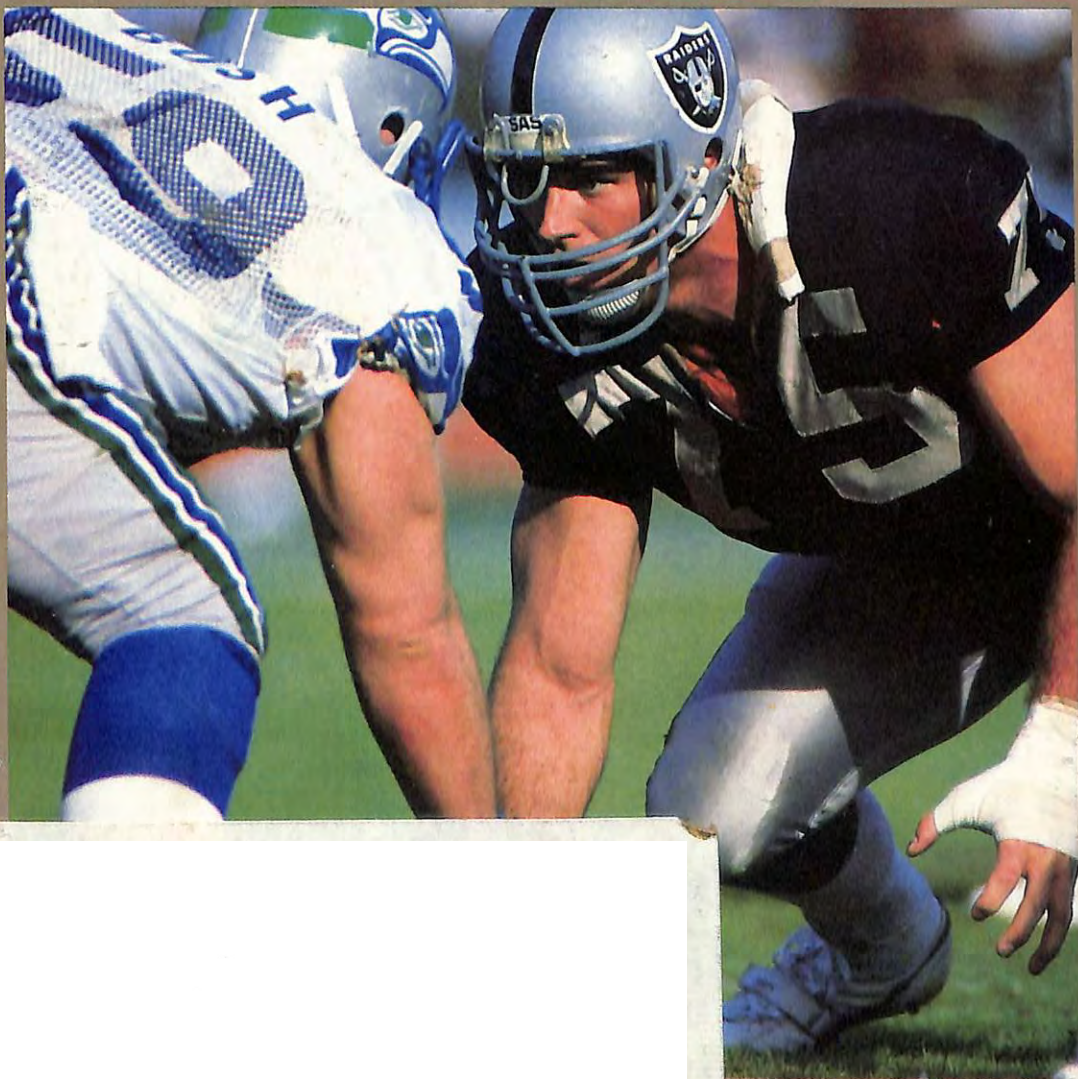
LIVELY BALL CONTROVERSY • NFL'S DRUG BLACKLIST
GASTINEAU & DICKERSON RATE THEIR TOUGHEST OPPONENTS

SPORT

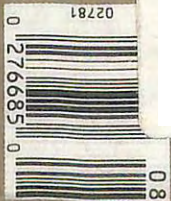
AUGUST 1986/\$2

NFL PREVIEW

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SPECTACULAR

THE AFC PREVIEW 23

The bloodied Patriots will pass the torch. To whom? Miami and Cleveland will contend again, and so will the Colts, of all people. The budding superteam of 1986, though, is the Denver Broncos.

By Bob Drury

• **Rating the Tough Guys, AFC:** Mark Gastineau, Dan Fouts and Louis Lipps rank their archenemies.

BRANDED 39

Questionable drug testing procedures have left some rookies burned and bitter as their careers begin.

By Bryan Burwell

THE NFC PREVIEW 43

Bear hunting season begins. The Giants, Redskins and Rams are armed and ready. And lying in the brush are Tampa Bay and Minnesota.

By Kevin Lamb

• **Rating the Tough Guys, NFC:** Eric Dickerson, Everson Walls and Mike Singletary name the players they fear the most.

DID YOU HEAR WHAT WE HEARD? 60

Which player-deal does Al Davis call "the only time I've been had"? Which QB already looks bench-bound to his coach? And other notes and gossip from camp.

By J. David Miller

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With the USFL on its case, a player strike in the wind, the networks turning surly and the city of Phoenix turning desperate, the NFL is facing a turbulent season.

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80 A taste of Curry

BIRTH OF A NOTION 67

What do you get when you combine summer football and indoor soccer? Arena Football. And it's coming to your town, its inventor hopes, sometime next year.

By David Levine

LAST OF THE 300-GAME WINNERS 71

Money, conditioning and a shortage of young turks have kept over three dozen pitchers winning well into their thirties. It's a phenomenon we may not see again.

By Sheldon Sunness

IS THERE A RABBIT IN THE '86 BALL? 78

That's what everyone's asking as home run totals soar. Our man goes inside the ball for the answer.

By Paul Fichtenbaum

THE DARK SIDE OF DONALD CURRY 80

There is a reason why Donald Curry, the undisputed welterweight champion, fights brilliant but often boring bouts. He has the image of his brother Bruce, the former junior welterweight champ, to remind him what can happen if he loses control.

By Calvin Fussman

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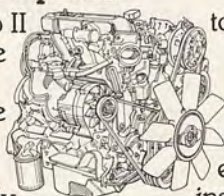
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SORRY, EDMONTON

Is it possible that the Calgary Flames head coach, Bob Johnson, has a subscription to *SPORT*? His Flames followed Paul Fichtenbaum's article ("How to Beat Edmonton," May) to perfection in one of the most exciting playoff series in years. Maybe the Detroit Red Wings and New Jersey Devils should start reading *SPORT*.

Darryl Christiansen
Lethbridge, Alberta

THE MISSING MILLIONAIRES

In "The *SPORT* 100 Salary Survey" (June) no motor sport drivers were listed. The 1985 Winston Cup Champion, Darrell Waltrip, won \$1,318,735. Second-place finisher Bill Elliott won \$2,383,187. Is there some reason for not including these men?

Dave O'Neal
Tacoma, Washington

Yes, there is a reason. Drivers earn their pay in two ways: as a percentage of their winnings (like jockeys) and as salaried employees of the team they race for. No one knows what each driver earns, except his accountant—Ed.

While reading the *SPORT* 100, I discovered an inaccuracy. You stated the exclusive clubs are the Yankees (6 millionaires), followed by the Mets, Dodgers and Braves (4). Well, as a Red Sox fan, I am now only able to afford to sit in the bleachers of beautiful Fenway Park due to the salaries of Rice, Boggs, Stanley, Evans and Armas, all making at least \$1 million.

Steven C. Goodale
Sterling, Massachusetts

LONELY ARE THE BRAVES

Jeff Coplon wrote a terrific article on Brett Butler ("The Butler Does It," June). Butler hit .300 for most of last season yet I never heard anything about him. Yes, the Braves broke his heart but they broke the hearts of the fans too. I am now reduced to reading the Indians' box scores. Thank you for giving a deserving player his recognition.

Kelly McCracken
Elizabeth, New Jersey

FREQUENT FLYERS

"Jumping: The Art and Science" (June) was exciting and interesting reading. As a nonjumping white boy, I've long been intrigued with the high fliers. Thanks to *SPORT* and John Capouya for bringing us such an "uplifting" story.

T.K. Bartlett
Chattanooga, Tennessee

"Jumping" did an excellent job of addressing the issue without being racist. Being white, 6-2 and "all-Earth," I marvel at Spud Webb's leaping ability and greatly admire the prowess of black athletes. Just one wish, however: I'd love to see Spud on a pair of skates.

Greg Blarr
Buffalo, New York

Finally, somebody has written an article on something I love to do—JUMP! Sometimes when I'm playing basketball I love to just take off and fly. It's like being in another world that only a select few can visit. When I see Dr. J or Dominique Wilkins skydiving, I just want to go off.

Walter L. Thurston
Boston, Massachusetts

ASK MR. RESEARCH, AGAIN

You recently published an answer to a question regarding the costs of artificial turf playing fields versus those for natural grass fields ("Ask Mr. Research," June). The answer did not include the cost of resodding grass fields (needed roughly every three years). In addition, for most synthetic turf soccer/football fields, the total cost for a new field, including the asphalt subbase, is less than \$1 million, roughly half the \$2 million figure you gave.

Ed M. Milner
AstroTurf Industries, Inc.
Dalton, Georgia

Our answer focused solely on the use of artificial turf for major league baseball fields. A baseball field requires about twice as much synthetic surface as a football or soccer field, hence the higher cost we cited. Resodding costs can be as much as \$20,000 but, groundskeepers say, a well maintained baseball field can in fact last indefinitely.—Ed.

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PLAYERS VERSUS AGENT: A HOUSE DIVIDED

Mismanagement by player agents has led to calls for regulation of their activities. The issue has arisen again in Dallas, where four NFL players are suing their former agent over what they claim are shady real estate investments.

Bill Bates and Jeff Rohrer of the Cowboys, Steve Wilson of the Broncos and Anthony Dickerson of the Bills have jointly filed a civil suit against Joe Courge, alleging he defrauded them of approximately \$200,000 through real estate deals. According to the suit, the four players claim Courge used fictitious names and bogus corporations during 14 property transactions.

The four players also charge that Courge preached Christian principles in order to gain their confidence. Deborah Goodall, an associate attorney with Ravkind, Rolfe and Baccus-Lobel, the firm representing the players, says, "Courge drove some of them around and played religious tapes to make them feel secure."

Courge, 39, has been an agent for 10 years and currently represents 40 football players. He refused to comment on the charges, but has filed a counter-suit against the players and attorney/agent Spencer Kopf, charging they conspired to drive him out of business.

The players charge that Courge found properties that were near foreclosure, bought them for less than market value, sold the houses to a fictitious corporation (often, Lewis and Clark, Inc.), then sold them to the players for a higher price. The players say they were unaware that the real owner of the properties was their agent. Courge and Mel Riley, named as a co-conspirator, also allegedly handled repairs and mortgage payments for their clients. Wilson acted when he learned banks were about to foreclose on his properties because the mortgage payments



Bates: Thrown for \$114G loss.

had not been made.

Rohrer and Bates were the hardest hit. Rohrer, who used Courge for these investments only and not as an agent, bought four houses. Bates purchased six homes and claims to have been defrauded of \$114,000. Coincidentally, both players live in apartments.

The case against Courge will probably go before a jury by the end of this year.

GETTING-READY- FOR-PRIME- TIME PLAYER

During the early stages of the USFL-NFL lawsuit, many in the courtroom whispered about the presence of Gary Jeter. Was the 6-4 Rams' lineman another of the USFL's "smoking guns"? And why was he shadowing the side door of the courthouse?

Jeter was merely working as an intern with the sports department of Cable News Network, in New York. One of his duties was to help CNN reporters secure interviews with key trial figures as they left the courtroom.

The 31-year-old defensive end has always dreamed of becoming a sportscaster. Jeter hosted a local cable-TV show during his tenure with the Giants, but he realized

A NEW COURSE FOR AN OLD LINKSTER

Dale Douglass found victories to be few and far between during his 23 years on the PGA Tour. His last paycheck was \$913.50 for a sixty-seventh-place tie in the 1985 Buick Open, which brought his total earnings for the previous five years to \$33,118.

Rather than relegate his clubs to the ash heap when he turned 50 last March, Douglass joined the Senior PGA Tour. Suddenly he began playing like he stepped out of the magic pool in *Cocoon*.

In a span of 17 days, Douglass won \$96,000 by taking The Vintage Invitational and the Johnny Mathis Senior Classic and by barely losing a playoff at the Senior PGA Tour Roundup, shooting 70 or under in every round he played. "The competition on this tour is good, so what he's done is not as easy as people might think," says Chi Chi Rodriguez, who finished second in the Mathis.

Indeed. The Senior PGA Tour, which began in 1980 as two events worth \$250,000, had a reputation

as an exhibition circuit for aging greats. Now, with 30 tournaments worth \$7.3 million, it's an attractive alternative for pros 50 and older who've been struggling on the regular PGA Tour.

Douglass suffered for most of his career from the effects of a whiplash injury in 1969. Then came tendinitis in his left wrist. "I lost my confidence," he says. "I tried everything to get well. Finally, a doctor put a small lift in one of my shoes and somehow that straightened me out."

Now, with Douglass' game aligned, Rodriguez says, "He's so hot, we're gonna send the fire department after him."



Douglass: Golf begins at 50.

he needed to learn more about the operation of a professional sportscast.

Last February, Jeter was looking for offseason work on the East Coast, when he pulled into Skippy's Hand Car Wash in Fort Lee, New Jersey. The owner, Chris Ballante, introduced himself as a director with CNN. Jeter was skeptical, but called CNN a few days later. Ballante set him up with the news department, where he learned how to operate a camera and a teleprompter. He was then assigned to the sports department, where he rewrote stories off the wire, went out with news crews and, when there was free time, practiced delivering stories. The producers taped and critiqued his sessions.

"He's sharp and natural," says Ballante. "When the camera light comes on he's a real ham."

Now, Jeter is tackling the tube.

Jeter plans to play two more seasons before seeking a full-time job as an in-studio sportscaster. "I don't want to be seen as an ex-athlete. I want to be seen as qualified. Besides," he laughs, "I've never looked at myself as a slob lineman, anyway."



CAR WARS: TRACK SPONSORS FIGHT FOR PARKING SPOT

The Boston Marathon, no longer an amateur event, became a veritable *Wheel of Fortune*, attracting such corporate backers as John Hancock, Ricoh and Mercedes-Benz, which gave cars to the male and female champs and bought chunks of commercial time on ESPN's broadcast of the marathon.

But last April's race left Mercedes spinning. For over two hours, eventual champs Rob de Castella and Ingrid Kristiansen appeared on TV screens wearing singlets that clearly bore the name "Mazda," the track club sponsored by the Japanese automaker, which de Castella and Kristiansen compete for.

New York City Marathon mastermind Fred Lebow says, "It's quite conceivable a company will spend millions of dollars in sponsorship and then a major competitor hires a runner for peanuts and he's a sure winner." Which is pretty much what happened in Boston. ESPN viewers had Maz-

da imprinted on their brains but may not have noticed Mercedes. As Tracy Sundlun, a New York official of The Athletics Congress, says of Mercedes, "Their visibility was quite tenuous."

Fans may not care what company logos go where, but Lebow believes, "This is our next major problem." De Castella is committed to the New York City Marathon in November, where Mercedes will again give away cars. Lebow says he's not sure he would have invited de Castella had he known about his Mazda connection.

Mazda didn't invent the art of hiring chest space, but its grip on the pectoral market is substantial. Jody Weiss, assistant VP of athletics and fitness for the International Management Group and coordinator of the Mazda Track Club, says the Japanese automaker is "subsidizing western bloc athletes unlike anything the sport has seen. They want to be seen as a supportive aspect of the sport." Mazda also has contracts with Olympic gold medalists Evelyn Ashford and Said Aouita, Canadian sprint sensation Ben Johnson and more than 60 other athletes.

Other businesses saw the mileage Mazda got in Boston and will go for their share. "Everyone is trying to find the easiest way of taking advantage of the possibilities," says Sundlun. "You have a lot of people trying to cut up a fairly small pie."

Many of the parties involved in this sponsor imbroglio look to the national federations, like TAC, to iron out the problem. But Alvin Chriss of TAC insists that if Lebow wants to please Mercedes and de Castella, "what he's got is a contract situation," not a rulemaking matter for TAC.

Robert Owens, GM of the marketing communications division of Mercedes, believes Chriss' boss, Ollan Cassell, will be more amenable. Mercedes has long-term arrangements with marathons in Boston, New York and



De Castella: Mazda man irks Mercedes.

Los Angeles, and Owens says running is "better served by consistent, high-value sponsors than by the potential for hit-and-run." So the question remains: Can the running community find happiness as a two-car family?

DEALING WITH DISASTER: MAJOR LEAGUE PLANS

You may recall the near tragedy that occurred during spring training, when a gas explosion ripped through the Brewers' clubhouse. Suppose there were fatalities. What would baseball—or, for that matter, the other pro leagues—do in the event of a catastrophe?

Baseball has two "disaster" plans. If an AL club lost six or more players, the other teams would contribute four roster players (one pitcher, one catcher, one infielder, one outfielder) to a pool to restock the stricken team. Players with no-trade contracts or veterans protected under the 10-and-5 rule would be excluded from the draft.

The NL threshold is seven players. Each club would submit a list of any 12

players under contract with more than 30 days of major league experience. Only those players with assignable contracts could be drafted.

In the NFL, if 15 players or fewer were lost, the team would continue its season but have pri-

ority on all waiver claims and would be under no restriction from activating players on its injured reserve list. If more than 15 players were lost, the commissioner could cancel the season. There would be a special

player draft in which each remaining team could protect two players from its reserved list plus 32 players from its total roster (active and reserve lists). The club would also get the first pick in the college draft.

The NBA's disaster plan is the simplest. If a team lost five or more players in an accident, the other 22 franchises would freeze five of their own players. The remaining players would go into a draft pool. The stricken team could take no more than one player from each team. Similarly, if an NHL club lost five or more players, it could choose two goalies and up to 18 skaters from the remaining 20 teams after those teams put one goalie and 10 skaters on a protected list.

Most league officials are reticent to discuss their disaster plans. One even worries that talking about catastrophe might invite it. He explained, "People are very superstitious, you know."

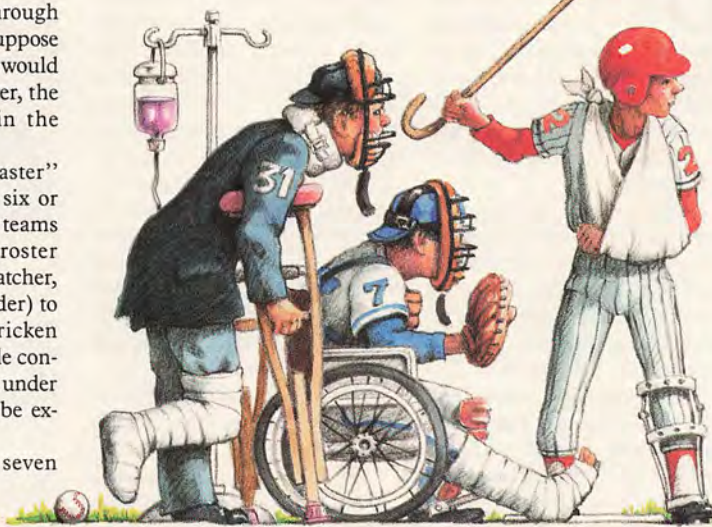


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NEW JAVELIN: SAFETY FIRST, RECORDS SECOND

Two years ago Uwe Hohn of East Germany was the first javelin thrower to break the 100-meter barrier, with his record toss of 104.80 meters (343 feet, 10 inches). This season he'll be happy to settle for 95 meters (about 312 feet). U.S. record-holder Tom Petranoff's best is 99.72m (327'-2"). His goal in '86, he says dejectedly, is "300—if I'm lucky."

Why will the distances of javelin throws regress? Mike Gee, technical officer for the International Amateur Athletic Federation, claims, "The distances by top throwers gave us concern that there would actually be a physical danger to runners [competing



Hohn's mark now unreachable.

nearby] and officials." So the IAAF ordered a redesign of the apparatus. The javelin's center of mass has been moved four centimeters closer to the tip. Its tail has been made thicker, forcing a downward movement.

The effect on the event will be dramatic. Distances are expected to decrease by 10 to 15 percent.

The release angle will be higher (from 25 degrees to 40), decreasing the all-important hand velocity. Rather than waiting for a head wind, which caused the old javelin to "float," athletes must now use their allotted 90 seconds per throw praying for a tail wind, which will push the new javelin farther. Size and brute strength will have the advantage over refined technique.

"Instead of an aerodynamic instrument, we now have a parabolic one," says Petranoff. "The floating action on the old javelin created the beauty, the spectacular quality of the event. This one will just go up and come down. It's ridiculous."

"The IAAF panicked," adds Iona track coach Tony Naclerio. "Tommy's and Uwe's throws landed too close to the running for comfort. So, because of two people, they drastically alter the event, an event that never had an accident because of a long throw."

Gee concedes, "Nobody responsible for the changes is pleased with it." However, he adds, it's the best alternative.

Most distressing to the competitors, says Petranoff, is that since "we don't have a union, we're powerless. Look, the most dangerous track and field events are the pole vault and hammer throw. The IAAF doesn't bother them. Why can't they just leave us alone?"

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE-40

It's an unlikely marriage of American professional marketing and Soviet sports amateurism. ProServ, the international sports management firm, has signed on to represent the USSR Tennis Federation in international competition. Lenin be praised, the Russians have an agent.

The Soviets, who want to promote sports participation back home, feel they need to have more players compete internationally. ProServ, based in Washington, will do for such Soviet tennis players as Andrei Chesnokov and Svetlana Cherneva-Parkhomenko what they do for such clients as Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl. Besides making sure that the forms are signed for each tournament, the entry fees are paid and the travel arrangements are in place, ProServ will try to secure commercial endorsements.

The deal may expand to involve the Soviet hockey and basketball teams, but tennis comes first because "it was considered our best common ground," says Jerry Solomon, senior VP at ProServ. "Tennis is an area they want to improve in, and it's a sport their people can



ILLUSTRATION BY ARNIE LEVIN

participate in." Another motive for choosing tennis was the Russians want to be ready for tennis at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

ProServ hopes to set up a Grand Prix tennis tournament in Moscow, perhaps in 1987, and plans to exchange sports TV programming with the Soviets to increase tennis coverage back in the USSR.

Donald Dell, chairman of ProServ, was surprised by the Soviets' proposal "until I realized they had made a conscious decision to tour internationally. They realize the need for currency to support the team. I did tease them a bit about this capitalist approach."

"They're looking to get involved in the business side of sports," adds Solomon, "and that's our business."

Is that Karl Marx we hear spinning in his grave?

ASK MR. RESEARCH

Which uniform numbers have been the most productive in major league baseball during the Eighties in terms of batting average, home runs and RBIs?

Jay Lefevers
Waco, Texas

In the National League, the number 10, which has graced the backs of such notables as Leon Durham, Andre Dawson, Ron Cey and Johnnie LeMaster, led all uniform numbers in hits (4,497), home runs (431) and RBIs (2,068). But the batting crown belongs to the number 28 (.2836), worn by crowd favorites like Pedro Guerrero, Tommy Herr, Cesar Cedeno, Jerry Mumphrey and Sam Mejias. In the American League, the number 11, which has adorned the uniforms of Doug

DeCinces, Hal McRae, Dave Collins, Toby Harrah and Fred (Chicken) Stanley, led in hits (4,769). The number 24, belonging to such sluggers as Dwight Evans, Tom Brunansky, Ben Oglivie, Rick Dempsey and George Vukovich, took the home run (624) and RBI titles (2,314). The number 26, worn by Wade Boggs, Willie Upshaw and Amos Otis, among others, had the highest batting average (.2798).

We eliminated from our calculations players who batted fewer than 100 times in a season. Batting averages were based on a minimum of 9,000 at-bats per number.

For the answers to sports mysteries, write to: Mr. Research, c/o SPORT Magazine. If we use your question, you'll receive a SPORT T-shirt.

PRESENTING THE WORLD'S FITTEST HUMANS

Athletes and scientists have been absorbed lately with seeking high-tech ways to improve performance. They may be well served by studying the primitive Tarahumara Indians, a tribe of Mexican Indians who may be the world's greatest distance runners.

The Tarahumaras, living in the rugged Sierra Madre Occidental in southwest Chihuahua State, surefootedly navigate the mountainous terrain as they engage in playful tests of stamina that would incapacitate most world-class athletes.

The favorite game of the tribe's menfolk is *rarajipari*, which in-

volves two teams flinging a ball ahead with their toes while running along a determined course that ranges in length from 20 to 100 miles. *Rarajipari* often lasts all of one day and all of the next. Occasionally, the women, holding the food, run beside the men as they eat.

How are the Tarahumara able to compete in such grueling contests? Dr. Robert Bye, an associate professor of biology at the University of Colorado, has spent parts of 15 years living with the tribe. He points to their constant exercise; *rarajipari* aside, the Tarahumara are *always* running, even when they are not in a hurry. Another reason is their



Tarahumara playing rarajipari: It keeps you running.

high carbohydrate, low cholesterol diet of corn, beans, squash and wild greens, which creates a formidable storehouse of energy.

The Tarahumara, who choose to remain separate from civilization, long ago made forays into athletic competition. At the 1928 Olympics in the Netherlands, a group of Tarahumara finished three minutes behind the winning time in the marathon. They left the track shrugging, "too short, too short."

A promoter set up a 10,000-

meter race in 1929, at Ascot Stadium in Los Angeles between Olympic medalist Paavo Nurmi of Finland and a group of Tarahumara. Nurmi set a blazing pace, won handily, then collapsed after crossing the finish line. The tribesmen continued running another lap around the track. The officials, who did not speak Spanish, had to use hand gestures to let them know the race had ended. What bothered the Tarahumara most was they lost to a *pavo*, which in English means "turkey."

A TALE OF TWO EXTREMITIES

Greg Harris of the Rangers is hoping to achieve something only Tony (The Apollo of the Box) Mulane, Elton (Icebox) Chamberlain and Larry Corcoran have done in the majors: pitch both right-handed and lefthanded in the same game.

Harris, 30, played around with switch-throwing in high school, when he was a pitcher for the Los Alamitos (California) baseball team. During his pro career, he continued to dabble, primarily while shagging flies in the outfield to save wear on his right arm.

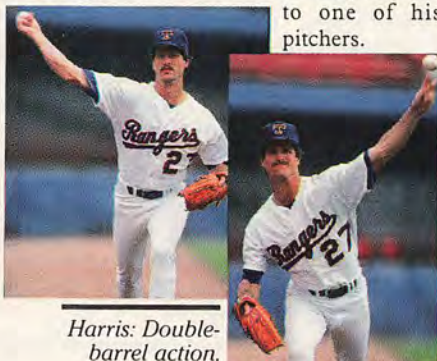
Harris began working out left-handed late last season because

he had to throw his breaking ball for strikes consistently. Harris already could do that. And he had to get his fastball up to 80 mph. Unfortunately, it topped out at 79.

During the off-season Harris ordered an ambidextrous glove from Mizuno, one with three fingers on each side of the webbing. He then worked as hard throwing lefthanded as he did righthanded. "I feel stronger than ever," says Harris. "My left side, my front arm in my delivery, is stronger and can pull down harder, helping reestablish my mechanical checkpoints."

The urgency has passed now that Valentine has lefties Ricky Wright and Mitch Williams on his staff. But with 24-man rosters, you never know when Valentine may need an extra arm—even if it's already attached

to one of his pitchers.



Harris: Double-barrel action.

S T A T S

You think it's easy being Super Bowl champ? By virtue of last season's success, the Bears in 1986 will play three Monday night games. The bad news is they will be followed by three road games. Coach Mike Ditka was annoyed by the shortened weeks of preparation he will have before the road games; lineman Dan Hampton called it "league-imposed parity."

How will the schedule affect the Bears? Relax Mike, it's no big deal. Statistician Peter Hirdt looked at the 16-year history of *Monday Night Football* and uncovered these facts:

1. The Bears will in fact become the first team in NFL history to play three road games following Monday night appearances. In the past, the NFL has tended to grant home games to teams that played the previous Monday night: 187 teams have played on the road, compared to 229 at home, since 1970.
2. Chicago appeared on MNF twice last season and once in 1984, and followed with home games in each case. Incidentally, Dallas and St. Louis each played a pair of MNF games last season, with road games following in each case.
3. More important, road teams are at no greater disadvantage with one day less to prepare than at any other time. The winning percentage of the teams that played on the road following a Monday night game is .481. Those same teams have compiled an overall road record of 648-703, a winning percentage of .482. Those short weeks on the road might be an inconvenience, but they have not had an impact on the playing field.

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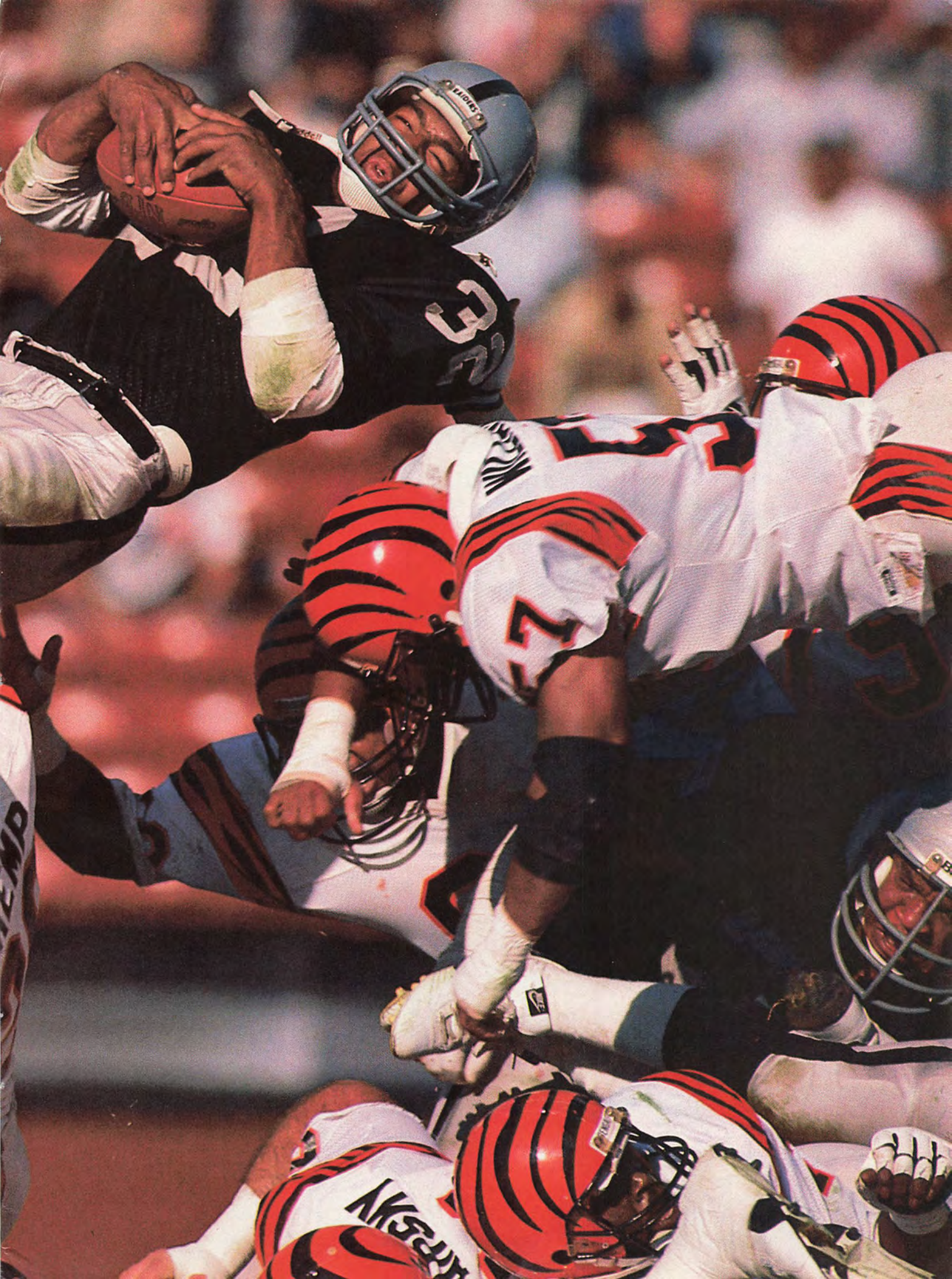
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THE 1986 NFL PREVIEW

OVER THE TOP

For the Raiders, Broncos,
Giants and Redskins. This year the high-flying
Bears won't fly alone.

Our season predictions begin on page 23.



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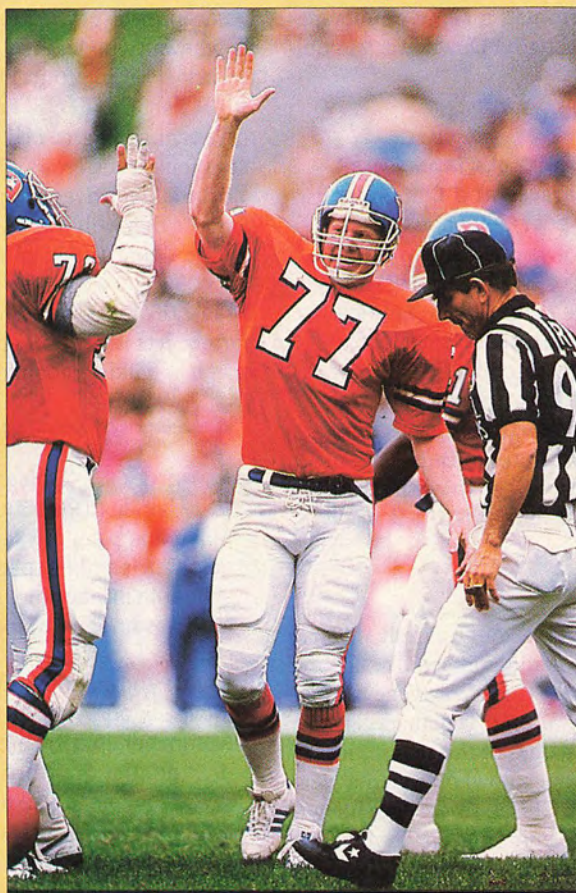
^{**}1985 J.D. Power & Associates Compact Truck Customer Satisfaction Index (for 1984 vehicles).

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THE 1986 NFL PREVIEW

AFC PREDICTIONS

by Bob Drury

**PLAYOFF TEAMS**

BRONCOS, DOLPHINS, RAIDERS,
BROWNS, COLTS

MVP

JOHN ELWAY, BRONCOS

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

JAMES PRUITT, DOLPHINS

COACH OF THE YEAR

ROD DOWHOWER, COLTS

COACH ON THE SPOT

JOHN MACKOVIC, CHIEFS

PLAYER ON THE SPOT

MARC WILSON, RAIDERS

DRAFT COUP

BOB BUCZKOWSKI, RAIDERS

TAKE THE POINTS

COLTS

DON'T GIVE THE POINTS

PATRIOTS

◀ AFC CHAMPION

BRONCOS

◀ TWO WORDS TO REMEMBER

KARL MECKLENBURG

AFC EAST

The Pats sink,
the Dolphs swim and the Colts learn to fly.

1 MIAMI DOLPHINS

If football is war, then the middle of Miami's defense last year was a sucking chest wound. While Marino, Clayton and Duper packed a nuclear arsenal, teams with conventional ground forces tore holes in Miami's midsection. Only one team in the AFC gave up more yards per rush (4.4), and it still haunts Don Shula. "When I look back on last season," says Shula, "all I can think of is how lucky we were to get by Cleveland."

In the playoffs, Browns Earnest Byner and Kevin Mack were the handguns that softened up the Stingless B's for New England's semiautomatic backfield a week later. The Dolphin rush defense ranked lower than such league patsies as the Vikings, Eagles and Saints. "This season," promises Shula, "will be different."

Failed projects, such as third-year linebacker Jackie Shipp, had best be watching

KEY PLAYERS

Mark Duper (35 receptions, 18.6 yards per catch) missed seven games, **Dan Marino** had an "off" year after missing training camp, and the Dolphins still finished second in the league in passing...cornerbacks beware: one rival Eastern Division coach describes fourth-round wide receiver **James Pruitt** (6-2, 199) as a "Mark Clayton who can leap"...if RB **Lorenzo Hampton** improves the way coach **Don Shula** expects him to, watch for Miami to jump into top ten in rush offense.

their backs. The drafting of big, tough run stuffers (ILB John Offerdahl, DT T.J. Turner) in April could bear fruit by September. And Shula has outside linebackers Hugh Green (who came from Tampa in week three last season) and Bob Brudzinski (training camp holdout) from the get-go this year. The key is the recovery of nose tackle Bob Baumhower, who

missed the entire season with a knee injury. If defensive ends Kim Bokamper and Mack Moore and linebacker Charles Bowser return from injuries to play even near their '84 form, Miami is a lock to take its fifth straight AFC East title.

And if not, the Dolphins are still chalk—unless the league bans the bomb.

2 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

That's right, the Colts.

While pundits were sitting at their computer terminals making up moving-van jokes, coach Rod Dowhower was qui-

KEY PLAYERS

With **Johnie Cooks**, **Duane Bickett**, **Barry Krauss** and **Cliff Odom**, Colts have put together best 'backer set in division...and with CB **Eugene Daniel** (8 interceptions) and second-year safeties **Anthony Young** and **Leonard Coleman**, Colts are close to catching Patriots for top secondary...best thing that monster rookie DT **Jon Hand** could do is become quarterback terrorizer. Second-best thing is light a fire under former No. 1 **Donnell Thompson**.

etly fashioning a tough, fresh defense keyed by no-name comers like Duane Bickett, Johnie Cooks, Eugene Daniel and Anthony Young. Indianapolis split its final four games of the season, losing to eventual Super Bowl opponents New England and Chicago by a touchdown apiece before stomping on Tampa Bay and Houston to close the show. The Colts are on the move, all right.

So what's missing? A passing game. Any passing game. "It's what we need to get competitive," says Dowhower. Indianapolis, behind a variety of rag arms, flew far behind 25 other teams. Get a lead on the Colts and the game was yours.

Enter Gary Hogeboom. Begin rise to

the top. "After six long years at Dallas, coming here is the same kind of feeling as coming out of college," gushes a jubilant Hogeboom. "We have receivers here that nobody ever heard of, but I guarantee you'll know their names before the season's out."

An idle boast? Perhaps. Matt Bouza, who led wideouts with 27 catches, and Wayne Capers (53-yard average per scoring catch) are the hottest tamales amid a cast of league rejects. However, it was Dowhower who presided over the Roy Green project in St. Louis. And it was Dowhower who learned the art of quarterback coaching from Don Coryell and Bill Walsh. Suddenly the shoulder-held rocket launcher attached to Hogeboom's body looks dangerous. When the Colts add a frequent-flyer program to their offense, as they will this year, Robert Irsay will be doing the laughing.

3 NEW YORK JETS

Former Jets linebacker coach Dan Radakovich is talking about his switch this

KEY PLAYERS

All-pro OLB **Lance Mehl** was switched to the inside in 3-4 defense and promptly led league in solo tackles. Jets' pass defense, sixteenth in league, is still searching for someone to replace Mehl outside...defensive coordinator **Bud Carson** might be tempted to move second-year SS **Lester Lyles**, a cruncher, into the breach should draftee **Tim Crawford** prove too raw...for Jets to make Super run, LCB **Bobby Jackson**, hampered by hamstring, must return to '84 form, and a capable backup must be found for NT **Joe Klecko**...RB **Freeman McNeil** was prone to breakdowns late in the season—the club lacks a horse to pick up the slack and give McNeil an occasional blow.



season to the offensive line. "Hell, anybody would rather coach linebackers," says Radakovich, who has been on both sides of the line before, at Pittsburgh. "I think defense is a lot more interesting." Then why has Radakovich gone over to the other side? "You might say I was drafted." You might say it was the best draft choice the Jets made.

Last season, despite a league-leading 96.2 quarterback rating, second-year man Ken O'Brien felt more like a city than a person. Specifically, fifth-century Rome. Defenders poured through the Jet trenches like Visigoths on parade as O'Brien was sacked a conference-leading

62 times. So the Jets traded player association president and perennial all-pro Marvin Powell, drafted offensive tackles with their first two choices, and began experimenting with the shotgun formation to give O'Brien more time.

But the best delaying tactic Radakovich will install is the active use of Hands. "I started the Hands in '74 with the Steelers," he says, explaining how he taught his linemen to extend their arms and use a short, hitting motion with their hands open to ward off defensive players. Radakovich went to the Super Bowl twice with Pittsburgh and later with the Rams after imparting his technique. "He invented

Now the Dolphins have a defense to back up their Marino corps.

the Hands, the taped shoulders, the tight-fitting jerseys," says left guard Ron Sams. "He's got an addictive personality, a one-track mind." This season, he'll also have a grateful quarterback.

4 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

"After you go to the Super Bowl, it's like you're George Armstrong Custer," says the noted West Coast historian Al Davis. "You snuck up on 'em at Wounded Knee

GASTINEAU RATES THE SACK BUSTERS

The joy of sacks is like the thrill of rock & roll. You can't explain it, you have to feel it. And if you can't feel it, you can't dance to it.

"I just wish Pete Rozelle knew what it was like," says Mark Gastineau, the Jets' defensive end who rewrote the rule book. "But if you've never sacked, you'll never know."

When the offensive tackles and crackdown tight ends couldn't stop Gastineau's celebratory Sack Dance, the NFL did, passing "the Gastineau Rule" in 1984.

"I just wish Pete Rozelle knew what it was like."



"I won't be thinking about it, and then I have to hold back and say, 'I can't do this,'" Gastineau says. "I've never been called for dancing, but I'll get nailed this year. I've held it back so long and I can't anymore."

Playing with a cast on a broken thumb for eight games last year, Gastineau still tallied 13.5 sacks, second in the AFC. That gives him 94 in the 90 games he has started, a record that's recognized in his \$675,000 salary, tops among the NFL's defensive linemen.

To Gastineau, a sack is "like chess, with so many factors. There's your own move, which is predetermined. Then there's the offensive tackle, the biggest factor. And then you have to grab hold of the quarterback."

"There are so many things that can happen," he says. "You can beat the tackle and he'll hold. Or you get to the QB and he gets away. Or you can have a penalty nullify a sack." But when it works, "it's incredible because it's so difficult," Gastineau says. "And it has an effect. I can feel the difference in the man I'm going against and the other team."

Gastineau is shooting to match the career-high 22 sacks he notched in '84. That's an awful lot of temptation to tap your toes. And he is ready to give in.

"It's an indescribable feeling," he says. "There's nothing like it. And I've just got to show it."

GASTINEAU'S TOUGHEST OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

1. **DAN ALEXANDER** and **JOE FIELDS**, Jets: "I go against them in practice and I compare them to anybody. It's just amazing the way they don't get the credit they deserve when it comes to stuff like the Pro Bowl voting."
2. **JOE DEVLIN**, Buffalo: "He'll tackle you before he'll give up a sack."
3. **CODY RISIEN**, Cleveland: "He's tall, with long arms, good at keeping you away."
4. **BRIAN HOLLOWAY**, New England: "Same type as Risien."
5. **CHRIS HINTON**, Indianapolis: "He's got bulk, and he's got quickness."

—Barry Stanton

and in the Black Hills. So you got your long golden locks flowing and you got your buckskins on and you're thinking about running for president and then, boom, the season starts, and every Sunday Sitting Bull is waiting 'round the corner."

"Perhaps if we had beaten the Bears 46-10, I might be a little worried about overconfidence," says head coach Raymond Berry. "Considering the outcome of the Super Bowl, I really don't see anything to be overconfident about." He says that, but does he mean it?

The Patriots are a solid team (ninth in offense; seventh in defense) whose only major losses from last season are some pride (Super Bowl), some face (drug scan-

KEY PLAYERS

After demanding a trade following allegations of drug use, CB **Ray Clayborn** has decided to stay ...head coach **Raymond Berry** calls two-headed **Tony Eason/Steve Grogan** QB situation "one of the best problems a coach can have." See how he feels if they're both healthy in November...prediction: opponents throw more at Clayborn and run more at all-pro ROLB **Andre Tippett** as LCB **Ronnie Lippett** and LOLB **Don Blackmon** continue last season's surge.

dal) and defensive end Julius Adams (retired). But they are not a great team. Last season they were blessed with a strong run of luck and a noticeable lack of injuries. No team can count on that. Apparently, the Pats will. Says Berry, "We're pretty set everywhere." In today's upwardly mobile NFL, that kind of thinking usually leads to a fall.

5 BUFFALO BILLS

You read it here first. The 1986 Bills will win more than two games—guaranteed. Which three is another question.

"Our goal is to make the playoffs," says head coach **Hank Bullough**, who took over for **Kay Stephenson** five games into last season. "If I say we want to go eight

KEY PLAYERS

Bills finished twenty-fourth in league in rushing last season. That will improve with **Greg Bell**, top draft pick **Ronnie (Oops) Harmon** and a full season from **Joe Cribbs** ...head coach **Hank Bullough** denies it, but Cribbs may yet be moved for a quarterback. Did someone say **Bill Kenney**?...watch for '85 top draft choice DE **Bruce Smith** to lead division linemen in sacks under Bullough.

and eight, our players will say, "Which eight are we supposed to lose, Coach?"

Bullough is known as a defensive master, having molded the 1981 Cincinnati Super Bowl defense. He will certainly slash the Bills' league-worst giveaway/takeaway (-17) and penalty (132 for 965 yards) numbers. But if the Bills are to attract enough fans to give 80,290-seat Rich Stadium the look of a football game rather than a yard sale (the Bills averaged 37,893 per home game last season), they are going to have to do it with offense.

Whether Bullough can put in an offense right for quarterback **Bruce Mathison**, a fourth-year free agent, is the question. The former Charger backup, who replaced since-waived **Vince Ferragamo** in week 10 last season, can run, has a gun and often finds a receiver, albeit not necessarily one of his own. Since high school, however, Mathison (who was a backup at Nebraska) has started exactly eight games. "Anytime your team has a 2-14 year you need something," says Mathison. "But I don't think the Bills need **Jim Kelly** or **Joe Montana**." They could use the '67 Green Bay Packers.

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AFC CENTRAL

The Bengals get tougher. The Steelers get stronger. The Browns get fancy, and pass them both.

1 CLEVELAND BROWNS

The Browns are a building-block team. Two years ago their priority was the secondary. So they went out and got Frank Minnifield and Don Rogers, mixed them with holdovers Hanford Dixon and Al Gross, and today they have one of the best secondaries in the league. Last season, they decided to put the running game in order. So Kevin Mack came over from the USFL, teamed with Earnest Byner, and the result was a pair of 1,000-yard rushers who produced 15 touchdowns. This sea-

KEY PLAYERS

Good news: **Bernie Kosar** finished less than a point behind Denver's John Elway in AFC quarterback ratings last season. Bad news: Both finished behind Pittsburgh's Mark Malone and Kansas City's Bill Kenney. Offensive coordinator **Lindy Infante** ("Nobody goes any further than the quarterback takes them") gave Kosar a crash course in reading defenses over the summer. Infante's offense utilizes four receivers and relies on quick defensive reads. Young Kosar may need more experience to pick up the high-tech scheme. Veteran **Gary Danielson**'s shoulder woes will slow his progress, but don't be surprised to see the Browns relieve Kosar of the job—for a while...meanwhile, Infante, former coach of the Jacksonville Bulls, has brought some of his old blue-chips to Cleveland, including speedster receiver **Alton Alexis** and defensive end **Joe Costello**. Both should challenge in camp for roster spots.

son, upgrading the receiving corps is at the top of coach Marty Schottenheimer's list. The result should be a repeat title for the AFC Central champions.

"When the opportunity for big plays presents itself, we're going to strike," says new offensive coordinator Lindy Infante, renowned as a miracle worker. "Frankly," adds Schottenheimer, "that's something we weren't able to do last season." Indeed, on passing downs it was enough for opposing defenses to (1) stop Mack and Byner coming out of the backfield and (2) club tight end Ozzie Newsome (who led the team with 62 receptions) into submission. Cleveland's top wideout was Brian Brennan, with 32 catches for no touchdowns. Next best was Clarence Weathers with 16.

So Schottenheimer drafted San Diego State flash Webster Slaughter with his first pick, signed a gaggle of free agents, including veterans Terry Greer and Jeff Boyd from the Canadian Football League, and let Infante take over the care and feeding of Bernie Kosar.

"These guys are excited," says Infante. "We're putting in a system where anytime we snap the ball, anybody on the team could wind up catching it. Players love that kind of stuff. What the run did for us last year, that's what the passing game will do for us this year. Plus, we'll still have the horses back there." That ought to do it.

2 CINCINNATI BENGALS

You know the scenario. Ping-Pong football. With Boomer Esiason, Cris Collinsworth, James Brooks, Eddie Brown, Larry Kinnebrew and an offensive line a meatpacker can appreciate, the Bengals were the second coming of the Golden Horde, looting and pillaging the NFL's best defenses week in and week out. The Bengals finished third in the league in total offense and scoring. Esiason was the conference's second-rated quarterback. Collinsworth and Brown both finished in the top twenty in receiving. Brooks was 71 yards shy of 1,000, and no one stopped Tank Kinnebrew inside the five.

Alas, Cincinnati's sieve defense was so good-natured that opponents barely

broke a sweat before trotting off the field with another touchdown. When it came to scoring, the Bengal defense was a cheap chanteuse and the opposition was Warren Beatty.

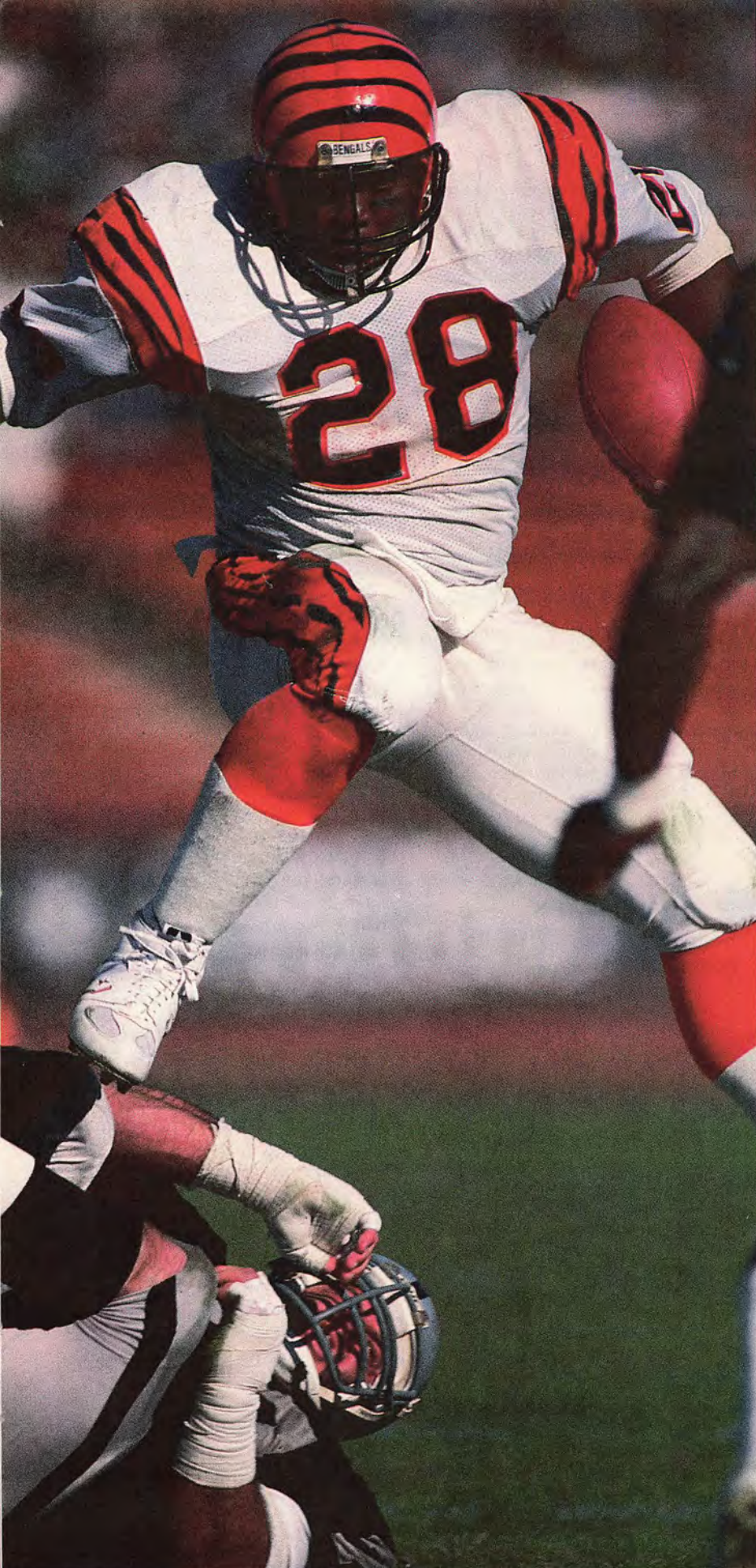
KEY PLAYERS

Boomer Esiason is salivating. "I'm not the inexperienced quarterback everybody said I was last year," he says gleefully. "On offense, we're going to be out of sight"...coach **Sam Wyche** took time out from his defensive orgy on draft day to add **Tim McGee**, Tennessee's all-time leading receiver, with the twenty-first pick of the first round. "This kid can fly," says Esiason...first-round LB **Joe Kelly**, second-round DB **Lewis Billups** and third round DB **David Fulcher** could all start right away...**Larry Kinnebrew** shed 20 pounds and is down to 255.

"First of all," says defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau, "we're going to change our defensive philosophy. For too long, the Bengals have emphasized size and strength over speed. But this year you're going to see us work our speed into an attack-type defense. There's going to be a whole new look to the Bengal defense. You might see us come in with six down linemen sometimes. And we're going to change people if we have to. I can see as many as four or five different players cracking the starting lineup within the next two years."

LeBeau says he's not afraid to play rookies, which should make for an eventful training camp. The Bengals took five defensive players in the first three rounds of the draft. They all have speed and they all could see considerable playing time this year.

"Defenses around the league still haven't caught completely up to the passing offenses," says LeBeau. "But I think



Tank Kinnebrew can't be stopped—not so the Bengals

the Bears started a trend. You can't sit back and wait any longer for them to come to you. We're going to go get them this season."

3 HOUSTON OILERS

Whither Warren Moon? Since signing the big-bucks contract and being planted behind one of the best young offensive lines in the league, Moon has taken the Oilers nowhere in two years. It hasn't been all Moon's fault, of course. The Oiler, uh, defense hasn't escaped the league's bottom eight since Bum Phillips left five years ago. (It finished twenty-seventh overall last season.) Furthermore, the federal government has been using the wide receiving corps as a dump for

KEY PLAYERS

Coaches say rookie QB **Jim Everett** "has the intangibles, the oomph, it takes to win in this league." Head coach **Jerry Glanville** says, "Warren's still our number one quarterback," but the Buffalo Bills are being mentioned as potential Moon-pies. "With a contract like Moon's, though," warns an NFL general manager, "he may be untradeable"...SS **Keith Bostic** and FS **Bo Eason** (a/k/a Batman and Robin) will hit the big time this year. They combined for 240 ruthless tackles last season, with Bostic adding 5.5 sacks. If Houston had a cornerback there'd be hell to pay in the secondary... watch for Giant reject **Jamie Williams** (39 receptions and a killer blocker) to get a few all-pro votes in Jerry Glanville's new system.

its witness protection program. It's tops for anonymity.

But according to new head coach Jerry Glanville, who took over with two games left last season, the Oilers have never played to Moon's strengths. "Our quarterbacks went down 58 times last year," says Glanville. "That doesn't make any sense. Imagine if we didn't have guys who can run back there?" So this season two major changes will be installed to give Moon—whom Glanville says he has no intention of trading, despite having chosen Purdue QB Jim Everett with the

LIPPS RATES THE PUNTERS

The scene happens in training camp every year: The coach asks for volunteers to return punts, most everybody takes a step backward, and the poor soul who stands in place gets nailed. Louis Lipps of the Pittsburgh Steelers was different. He stepped forward when everyone stepped back. He wanted the job. And he's been two steps ahead ever since.

Lipps made the Pro Bowl as a rookie punt returner in 1984 and the only good reason he didn't repeat in 1985 was because he made it as a wide receiver instead.

"I get a big kick out of returning punts," Lipps says. "You never know what's going to happen until you get tackled. At any point in time, you can break it and score big."

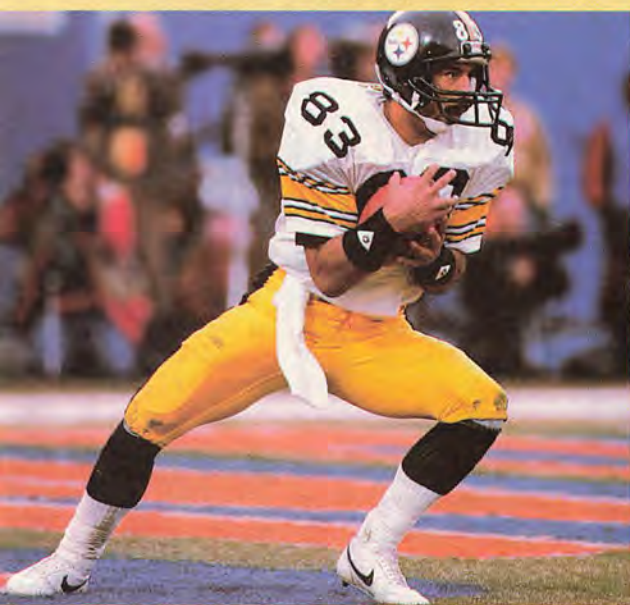
Punt returning is among the most hazardous jobs in football. Special teamers know that the best way to catch the attention of their coach is to knock the head off a flyer like Lipps. "I can't recall ever taking a real killer shot," Lipps says. "I feel pretty elusive out there and try not to give anybody a chance to give me a good blow. But once I get tackled, they try to tie me up like a pretzel."

In two seasons, Lipps has returned three punts for touchdowns, only one less than the number of times he's called for a fair catch. That's an indication of his explosiveness and his courage. "I know the risk involved with all the big guys chasing you down," he says. "I still want to do it, because I like it. I don't ever think about getting hurt."

Steeler head coach Chuck Noll does give Lipps some help, making sure his number-one punt returner doesn't burn out. Last season, Lipps returned 36 punts, while safety Rick Woods handled 13. There's no question, however, the Steelers are better off with Lipps' service. He averaged 12.1 yards per return to Woods' 3.5.

"The thing you need to watch for is the first couple of blocks," Lipps says. "Once you get by the wall, hit a crack, you just take it from there. Coordination and good judgment are the biggest things." And very few do it better. Lipps' 656 return yards in 1984 were just 10 short of the NFL record. He has finished second both of his seasons in the AFC in punt-return average. Lipps is also one of the most feared deep threats in the NFL, but he says twisting and turning his way to a touchdown on a punt return gives him more satisfaction than beating a cornerback for a score.

"I can't recall ever taking a real killer shot. I feel pretty elusive out there."



"The punts for touchdowns don't happen as often as catching a touchdown pass," he says. "There aren't a lot of teams we make punt a lot. When they do punt, we try to make them pay for it."

LOUIS LIPPS' TOUGHEST PUNTERS

1. **REGGIE ROBY**, Miami: "He kicks it to the sky. That makes it very difficult to judge."
2. **ROHN STARK**, Indianapolis: "Left-footed punters have an opposite spin. He kicks a knuckleball that really dips. Plus, he's one of the boomers."
3. **CARL BIRDSONG**, St. Louis: "He kicks to the sidelines, away from me. He's a good position punter."
4. **PAT MCINALLY**, Cincinnati: "They have good coverage teams and he works well with them. There's no time to make a judgment."
5. **STEVE COX**, Washington: "He kicks away from me a lot. I never get a good chance against him."

—Gary Myers

third pick of the draft—a fighting chance.

First of all, the Oilers will put in the shotgun formation. "This gives him an extra step every snap," Glanville says. Second, Houston, which stopped just short of designing pass routes for OTs last season, will keep a halfback in the backfield to give Moon added blocking. That

will hurt Butch Woolfolk (fifth in the league with 80 receptions). But it should give rookie WR Ernest Givens a chance to blossom.

Glanville has to bite the bullet. "Do I want a hot receiver at halfback or do I want a live quarterback?" he asks. And he's not being rhetorical.

4 PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Look at it this way: The last time one of Chuck Noll's teams lost more games than it won we thought we were winning the war in Viet Nam.

So what was the problem with last season's 7-9 team? Pass defense was excellent (second in NFL) and rush defense wasn't bad (twelfth). Offensively, Pittsburgh didn't scare people like in the old days, but a middle-of-the-pack ranking (thirteenth) and a few Chuck Noll tricks should have put them over the .500 mark.

"I'll tell you what the problem was," says offensive line coach Hal Hunter. "When we had third and short and really needed to move the ball, we didn't knock anybody over. We finessed 'em. We

KEY PLAYERS

Keith Gary (3 sacks), **Mike Merriweather** (4), **Bryan Hinkle** (5) and **Keith Willis** (5.5) will be turned loose again to set up the DBs for the big play. Two years ago the gambling Steeler defense scored six touchdowns and swiped 31 interceptions. Last season the defense scored once and intercepted 20. Sacks fell by 11. "The players didn't like the down-tempo-type game we went to," says defensive coordinator **Tony Dungy**. "so this year we're bringing back the blitz"... safety **Donnie Shell**, in his thirteenth season, needs three interceptions to hit 50 for his career.

trapped 'em. We countered 'em. But we couldn't knock 'em back. There are just so many times you can fool 'em."

Steeler watchers are going to be shocked that Noll has broken from long-standing yet short-and-squat tradition and gotten himself some hosses who match up to any in the league. Pittsburgh will probably open with 6-5, 273-pound rookie John Rienstra at right guard and 6-6, 285-pound second-year man Mark Behning (on injured reserve last year) at right tackle. Standing by in case anything happens to veteran center Mike Webster is 6-4, 270-pound Dan Turk (also on injured reserve).

"Playing the kids, we may suffer a little bit during the exhibition season," says Hunter. "But when the real thing gets started, you're going to see a line that's firing off the ball and burying people."

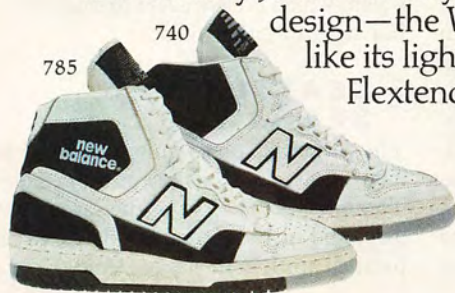


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AFC WEST

Wild West shootout:
The men in black get bucked by the Broncos.

1 DENVER BRONCOS

In Denver you start with the defense, and when you start with the defense you start with Karl Mecklenburg. Mecklenburg's finest performance last year came against the Steelers, when he played seven positions and recorded 12 tackles and four sacks. This guy, a twelfth-round draft choice out of Minnesota three years ago, made the Pro Bowl even though he didn't start for Denver until the tenth game.

"Last year we played bend-but-don't-

KEY PLAYERS

This is what happens when you come into the league with Dan Marino: You throw for 3,891 yards, second best. You average 327 yards per game, second best. In two years, you lead your team to a 23-7 record, second best. **John Elway** did finish first among quarterbacks in total offense last year, with 4,144 yards. And he led all QBs in rushing with 253 yards. His 605 pass attempts for the season were four off the record held by Dan Fouts. This season Elway will make the Pro Bowl.

break," says head coach Dan Reeves, "but then late in the season we evolved into an attack-type D. This year, with Karl and [CB] Mark Haynes both ready from the start of camp, we'll have a whole new look."

That doesn't necessarily mean new personnel, although Reeves concedes anything is possible. He plans to use the 6-3, 230-pound Mecklenburg, a caveman who defies his genealogy (his father is a doctor and his mother recently resigned her post as a deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare), as a roving hatchet man. He may line up at outside linebacker. He may line up at end. He may line up in the middle. "You won't know where he's coming from," says Reeves.

The defensive line could also undergo changes, with Andre Townsend, Simon Fletcher, Greg Kragen and rookie nose tackle Tony Colorito pushing the aging Barney Chavous and Rubin Carter. Only Rulon Jones is safe. Moreover, the Denver secondary will lean heavily on man-to-man coverage with the addition of Haynes, obtained from the Giants.

"No more picking on Louis Wright," says Reeves of his perennial all-pro cornerback. "With Haynes, we have the coverage to really pressure any offense at the point of attack. We didn't do much dictating on defense last year." This year, the Broncos call the shots—all the way to the Super Bowl.

2 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Los Angeles' other team is like the old joke about tough bars. You know, if you don't have a gun when you go in, they give you one. Well, if you don't have an attitude when you join the Silver and Black, they give you one. Except the Raiders lost one tough sonofabitch in Lyle Alzado, who retired. When Alzado went on safari, the lions rolled up their windows.

"We can replace Lyle with a player of equal ability," says head coach Tom Flores, who wins and keeps his mouth shut and isn't asked to do a lot of Tidy Bowl commercials. "But the toughness he brought to this team, the intimidation factor—that is going to be hard to replace."

Hold back those tears, boys. Guys like Matt Millen and Howie Long and Mike Haynes and Rod Martin remain on a squad that finished fourth in total defense while taking the division title. And though the body Flores will use in Alzado's old right end spot will come in the form of sackster Sean Jones, the X-factor just may arrive in the form of first-round defensive end Bob Buczkowski, the surprise pick from Pitt, who is expected to make an immediate impact.

"Everybody saying we wasted a pick by picking Buczkowski so high has just

served to piss the kid off," says one Raider exec. "He came into our spring camp with a bleep-the-ratings and bleep-the-people-who-made-them attitude."

The Raiders' year of transition has already passed. That was 1985, when they broke in seven players as regulars—wide receiver Jessie Hester, defensive end

KEY PLAYERS

Tom Flores says QB job is up for grabs between **Marc Wilson** and **Jim Plunkett**, but adds that "realistically, Plunkett is 38 and has missed 20 games to injuries in the past two years." Don't be surprised if neither Wilson nor Plunkett is around opening day... Raiders made annual trade for disgruntled player by acquiring 49ers TE **Earl Cooper**...rookie WR **Jessie Hester** averaged over 29 yards per catch over the last six games. His 20.8 season average beat the Bengals' Eddie Brown (17.8) and the Niners' Jerry Rice (18.9).

Sean Jones, wide receiver Dokie Williams (who had 48 receptions), nose tackle Bill Pickel, linebackers Reggie McKenzie, safety Stacey Toran and center Don Mosebar. And still the Raiders managed to take the division title. This year those seven will be veterans.

Considering that the Raider offense, particularly the quarterback situation, figures to remain unsettled heading into the season, an attitude like Buczkowski's could just be the rejuvenating factor on a team which prefers alleys to stadiums—but wins in either one.

3 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

The Seahawks oh-so-quietly slipped to .500 last season. Don't blame the defense. Though lacking some of the savagery it displayed in 1984, the rush defense still finished ninth in the league. And the sec-



ondary tied for sixth in interceptions with 24 (down from a league-leading 38) for three touchdowns.

No, it was the running game that did in the Seahawks. Like the beef industry in these cholesterol-conscious times, Coach Knox's Ground-Chuck offense ground to a halt in '85, largely because defenses were keying on—and making mincemeat out of—Curt Warner. "To be honest," admits backfield coach Chick Harris, "we didn't have the talent dimension we've been looking for back there." Translation: Anytime the Hawks were in a position to run, every mother's son knew Warner was getting the ball. "Toward the end of the season," says Harris, "Curt was awful tired."

This season, Seattle has added its new "dimension" in the form of rookie full-back John L. Williams. He is just the man to take the heat off Warner, who

finished fifth in the conference with 1,094 yards, though he averaged a meager 3.8 yards per carry. Williams, a devastating blocker with 4.6 speed, allows the Hawks to dish it to anyone in the

KEY PLAYERS

An era ended when 103-year-old **Charlie Young** retired this winter. Former Cincy all-pro TE **Dan Ross**, holdover **Mike Tice** and USFL refugee **Gordon Hudson** (the prime recipient of Steve Young's largesse at BYU) vie for Young's position. As long as **Steve Largent** and **Daryl (Deep Heat) Turner** remain, no Hawk tight end will ever make all-pro. At least they can give the impression they have a deep threat inside.

For Butch Johnson and the Broncos, the Super Bowl is within reach.

backfield and opens up Krieg's passing game. Unfortunately, in football's toughest division, that won't cut it.

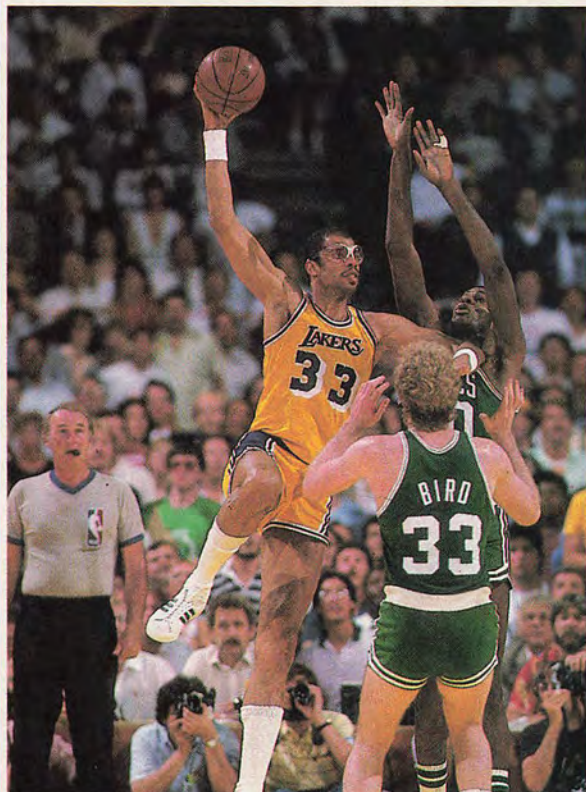
4 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

The murmur begins on the defensive line, grows louder as it snakes its way through the linebackers, and becomes a high-pitched scream by the time it hits the secondary: "He's back! Kellen Winslow's back in town." And healthy, to boot. Just what Air Coryell needs, right? Sure, like Imelda needs a new pair of pumps.

Last season was a washout for Winslow, who shredded knee ligaments two years ago and missed San Diego's first six games. By the time he returned, the of-

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fensive load had been shifted to Lionel James (conference-leading 86 catches) and another latecomer, USFL refugee Gary Anderson.

This year, according to Coryell, Winslow will once again bear the bulk of the load. Coryell puts it simply: "Anderson and James just can't run over people the

KEY PLAYERS

Top draft choice **Leslie O'Neal**, a defensive end, will step right in, as may third-round pick **Terry Unrein**, another DE... **Don Coryell** says the only safe linebacking job belongs to **Billy Ray Smith**... **Gary Anderson** will play a lot at wide receiver. Like fellow USFL alumnus **Tim Spencer**, Anderson should benefit from a respite after back-to-back seasons... Fouts calls Spencer best blocking back he's ever played with.

way Kellen can. Now that he knows he can take a hit on the knee, we want him back as an integral part of our offense." Which means Dan Fouts now has a choice of James, Anderson, Wes Chandler, Charlie Joiner or Winslow. "Now we can switch offensive emphasis in the middle of games," says offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese. "If we played with seven balls we'd be in a lot better shape." Unfortunately, it is the Charger defense that often seems to be playing with seven balls.

5 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs last went to the playoffs in 1971, with names like Lanier, Bell and Dawson. Two of those are in Canton, and back in KC there's no one gaining on them.

KEY PLAYERS

This is it for **Todd Blackledge**, last of the Super Six (Elway, Marino, Kelly, Eason, O'Brien) from the Class of '83 to make an impact. If Blackledge gets time he's got some blurs to shoot for in **Carlos Carson**, **Henry Marshall**, **Stephone Paige** and **Anthony Hancock**... second-round pick **Dino Hackett** should step right in at ILB... tenth rounder **Ike Readon** might provide surprising blow time for **Bill Maas** at NT.

PLAYER VS. PLAYER

FOUTS RATES THE BALL HAWKS

Dan Fouts doesn't jump up and down every time he hits the bomb. But it isn't because the thrill is gone. "I leave that to the younger guys," laughs the 35-year-old Fouts. "I might clap a little bit, but not much. Usually, I'm just trying to conserve my energy."

Last year, Fouts again led all QBs with an average gain of 8.46 yards per attempt. His 27 TDs tied him with Joe Montana, Boomer Esiason and Dave Krieg, three off Dan Marino's NFL-leading pace.

"There are a lot of good young quarterbacks who can go deep," Fouts admits. "A lot of it, of course, has to do with receivers, too. Marino has Clayton and Duper. Kansas City has a lot of guys who can get deep."

Fouts has Charlie Joiner, Kellen Winslow and Wes Chandler. He also has the San Diego system. Last year, they led the NFL in passing yardage for the seventh time in eight years.

"We have the best passing attack," says Fouts. "And we look deep first on every play. Every pass has one guy going for it all. It's my job to find him when the defense doesn't."

"The bomb forces a defense to play the entire field," he says. "The length as well as the width. The threat is ever present, especially if you've been successful with it a few times."

And even when the bomb blows up in your face, it's not that bad. "There's not that much risk, really," he claims. "It's rarely completed, let alone intercepted. And an interception that far downfield is just as good as a punt."

But a completion that far downfield is a killer.

"Every pass we throw has one guy going for it all. It's my job to find him."

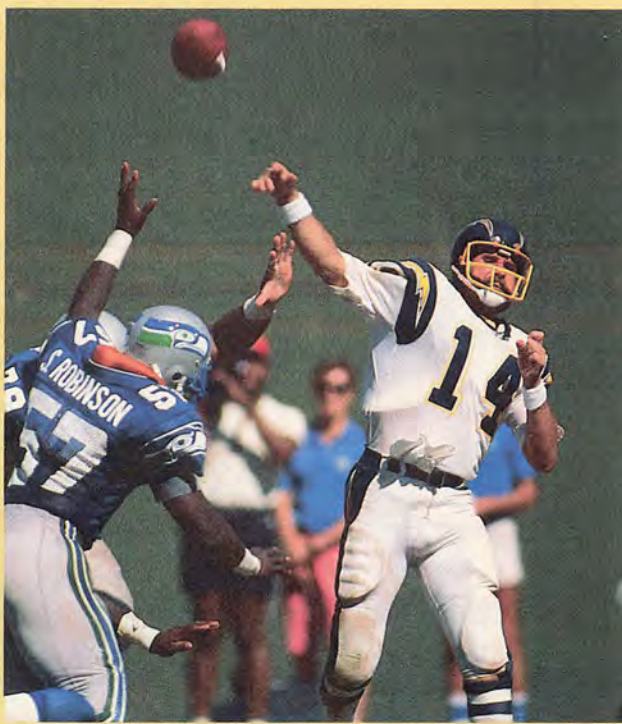
DAN FOUTS'

TOUGHEST DEFENSIVE BACKS

1. **Mike Haynes**, Raiders: "He's good against all passes, not just the bomb. He can read the patterns, and he has great speed and size."

"We pick our spots, but I'm not gonna throw over there much. Of course, we're not just going to give him a day off. You might throw it where it won't be caught but it won't be intercepted either, just to keep the threat in mind. But you have to be stupid to go after Haynes."

2-5. "Haynes is the best. If I name others, someone I leave off will come back and pick off four passes in a game." For the record, since 1980 Seattle's **John Harris** has intercepted Fouts six times, more than any other DB, followed by Denver's **Steve Foley** (5) and Cincinnati's **Louis Breeden** (4). The Raiders have picked Fouts off more than any team (23), but the main culprit has been **Mike Davis** (4). Haynes has 2. —*Barry Stanton*



"We're investigating as many possibilities as we can," says head coach John Mackovic, who was expected to try and improve an inept running game by taking a swipe at Joe Cribbs. "We're looking to bring in some top-flight players, but we don't want to give up quality players at key positions to make those moves."

In the absence of a turf eater, KC is trying to improve upon the next best thing—the offensive line. "We want guys who will fight to the death for our team," says Mackovic. Scouts say that tackle Brian

Jozwiak, the seventh pick in the draft, could be great. Add ex-Redskin center Rick Donnalley and possibly ex-USFLer Mark Adickes at right guard, and new line coach Carl Mauck begins the season with a 60-percent change up front.

"This is a hard game, it's a 60-minute street fight," says Mauck, picking up on the lethal atmosphere surrounding the Chiefs. "I want guys who feel that way about the game." By November, most of the Chiefs will be feeling like they've just been slugged with a tire iron.

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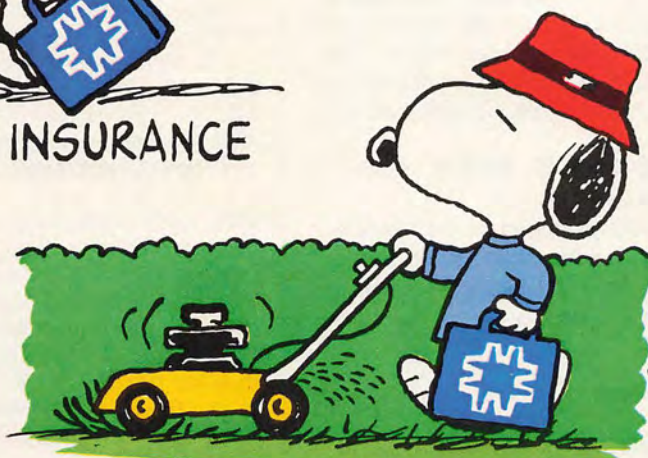
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BRANDED

Questionable drug tests, leaked results and hardline negotiating have given some rookies more than the usual hazing.

By Bryan Burwell

The little boy dreamed little-boy dreams. Like most young boys, those dreams took him on fantasy trips into the world of professional football. "Lord, wouldn't it be great," he thought, "to be in the NFL, *The National Football League*. Yeah, wouldn't that be something?"

Well, now he's here, and he was right. It sure was something. Something else. The little boy's sweet dream had curdled like a sour glass of milk. What should have been all fun and games was now nothing but serious, distasteful business.

People were saying all sorts of things about him now. The wrong things. Or maybe he just thought they were saying things.

"Man, it was just rotten," the kid says. "Just rotten. I'd walk into a crowded room and just feel people were staring at me and whispering. I'd swear they were all looking and whispering, 'drug addict.'"

This is the kid's story. He is among the 57 college players who tested positive during the drug tests at the NFL scouting combine rookie workouts last January in New Orleans. He is also among the 26 on that list who were drafted by NFL clubs last April.

He is also one of the four rookies who tested positive on those drug tests and found his test results—results that were supposed to have been a matter of privacy between the 28 NFL teams and the individual players—being revealed all over the country, either shortly before or shortly after the NFL draft.

So now when he and the three other rookies head into their respective NFL training camps this month to begin their professional careers, they will be carrying an extra burden. They will have been publicly labeled as drug users.

"I still don't understand how it happened," says the kid, who, on the advice of his attorney, chose anonymity in telling his story. "They told us it was private information—just for the NFL teams. I figured since the clubs were paying for it, they were the only ones who would know about it. But when my name came out in the

newspapers, I was angry. I felt betrayed."

The names became public because someone in the NFL leaked bits of information first to *The Boston Globe* and later to *The New York Times*. To the reporters' credit, neither paper printed the names of the players. Instead, what came out was a list of the 16 teams who drafted them. But, before long, a lot of people who shouldn't have been revealing names on that list were doing so. Strictly off the record, of course.

Because of the leaks from NFL management, four players have been branded, NFL-style.

- James FitzPatrick, OT, Southern California. First-round draft pick by the San Diego Chargers. His name was made public two days after the draft, when Chargers president Alex Spanos—a staunch supporter of mandatory drug testing—told a reporter for the *Times Advocate* in Escondido, California, that FitzPatrick tested positive for marijuana. Spanos said he thought the conversation was totally off the record and not for publication. Within a day, the story was national news.

- Alonzo Johnson, LB, Florida. Second-round draft pick by the Philadelphia Eagles. This is a strange tale, since no one has made any on-the-record confirmation about Johnson. However, long before the draft, Johnson's name was connected to drug-related rumors. By the time the draft rolled around, Johnson—once considered a certain first-round pick—found himself dropped to the early second round, where the Eagles took a chance on him. If Philadelphia hadn't taken the gamble, there's no telling how low Johnson might have slipped in the draft.

- Barry Word, RB, Virginia. Third-round pick by the New Orleans Saints. Someone told the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* that Word had tested positive at the scouting combine. Later, Word admitted that he tested positive for marijuana use.

- Arnold Franklin, TE, North Carolina. Eleventh-round pick by the Miami Dolphins. An unnamed source told the *Miami Herald* that Franklin tested positive for traces of marijuana. Franklin later admitted he had flunked



the drug test.

These are the only rookies who have seen their names in the sports pages, but at least six or seven more—including two first-round picks—also will go to training camp with a heavy cloud of innuendo hanging over their heads. No one has confirmed in the media that these players tested positive, but that hasn't stopped anyone from whispering their names.

"And now you know why I don't want the owners or anyone connected with the teams to have control over these so-called 'confidential' drug tests," says NFL Players Association executive director Gene Upshaw. "They want us to have mandatory drug testing, but how in the world can we trust them not to tell the whole world the test results? The answer is, you can't trust them."

Why this distrust between players and management? According to Upshaw and attorneys representing some of the branded rookies, there is a method to management's habit of leaking names:

- To prove to the public that the drug problem in pro football is not the NFL's fault. "They want you to believe they've inherited the problem," says one attorney. "They want everyone to think that the drug problems for these guys started long before they ever played in the NFL."

- A negotiating tool. "Think about it," Upshaw says. "It's a great control issue when they want to sit down and handle the negotiations on this player's contract. These rookies have their names spread across the sports pages as drug users and then their agents walk into the room to try and negotiate a contract. What kind of leverage do they have?"

- Another way of gaining the public's sympathy in the NFL Management Council's battle with the NFLPA on the random-drug-testing issue. "If this player tests positive and everyone knows about it," says Upshaw, "during negotiations, the owner will say, 'Look, we know you had a problem and that gives us reasonable cause to ask for random testing.' The kid doesn't know any better and wants to clear up his name, so he agrees to do it. But 'reasonable cause' doesn't begin until the player shows up at minicamp, not at that combine camp. The clubs have no rights whatsoever to try and force a kid to agree to random testing."

Even some club representatives agree that there was nothing voluntary about the way the tests were presented to the players. "We brought in a guy before the draft and for some reason he was unable

to piss in a bottle," says an NFL player personnel director. "Maybe it was nerves, maybe it wasn't. But it does make you worry. It's the same as someone refusing to come in and have his knee tested. You're not going to take a chance on him either."

The kid is totally confused and still a bit angry. "I felt like I had no power in the situation," says the kid. "I mean, how can I tell the NFL I wasn't going to take those tests at the combine? They had all the power. We had absolutely none."

I FELT LIKE A CONDEMNED MAN.

TONIGHT I WOULD
GO TO BED A NORMAL
GUY; TOMORROW
I'D BE A DRUG ADDICT.

I mean, we're the ones who want to get into the NFL, so how many of us were going to tell them no?

"And now I'm stuck in the middle of a battle between the union and management. I want to clear my name up. I'd do anything to clear my name up, because it was only for marijuana anyway. But the union is telling me that I shouldn't agree to random testing and [the owner of the team he plays for] is saying, 'You'd better.' I don't know what's going on."

The kid isn't alone. According to descriptions of how the drug tests were conducted at the New Orleans scouting combine, it was clear that this was new ground for everyone—and the inexperience showed.

Players say that there was little control or supervision over the urinalysis. "They just handed us a bottle and we all stood in line waiting our turn," says one player. "Sometimes they had someone watching us, sometimes they didn't." There were reports that some players had others urinate in their bottles.

There were reports that traces of cocaine, a regular pharmaceutical medicine, showed up and was put on the chart as "CO." As a result, several players were briefly labeled as cocaine users.

Specialists in the field feel that a truly effective drug testing procedure—one that would both serve the needs of management and the wants of the play-

ers' union—would have to be conducted at a totally independent and confidential drug testing facility. The test results would then be reviewed by drug experts and they alone would determine whether the player had a serious abuse problem or if he merely had a brief experiment with marijuana.

They alone would determine whether the player's test results warranted release to clubs interested in drafting him. They alone would determine whether the player needed drug rehabilitation. They alone would control the list and insure the confidentiality of the situation.

"But the real tragedy is that none of that will help any of these players," says Upshaw. "Their reputations have already been ruined. It's not fair."

The damage has been done both financially and personally. Johnson's attorney, David Ware, estimates that his client lost between \$500,000 and \$600,000 in salary and bonuses as a result of falling from the first round to the early second round.

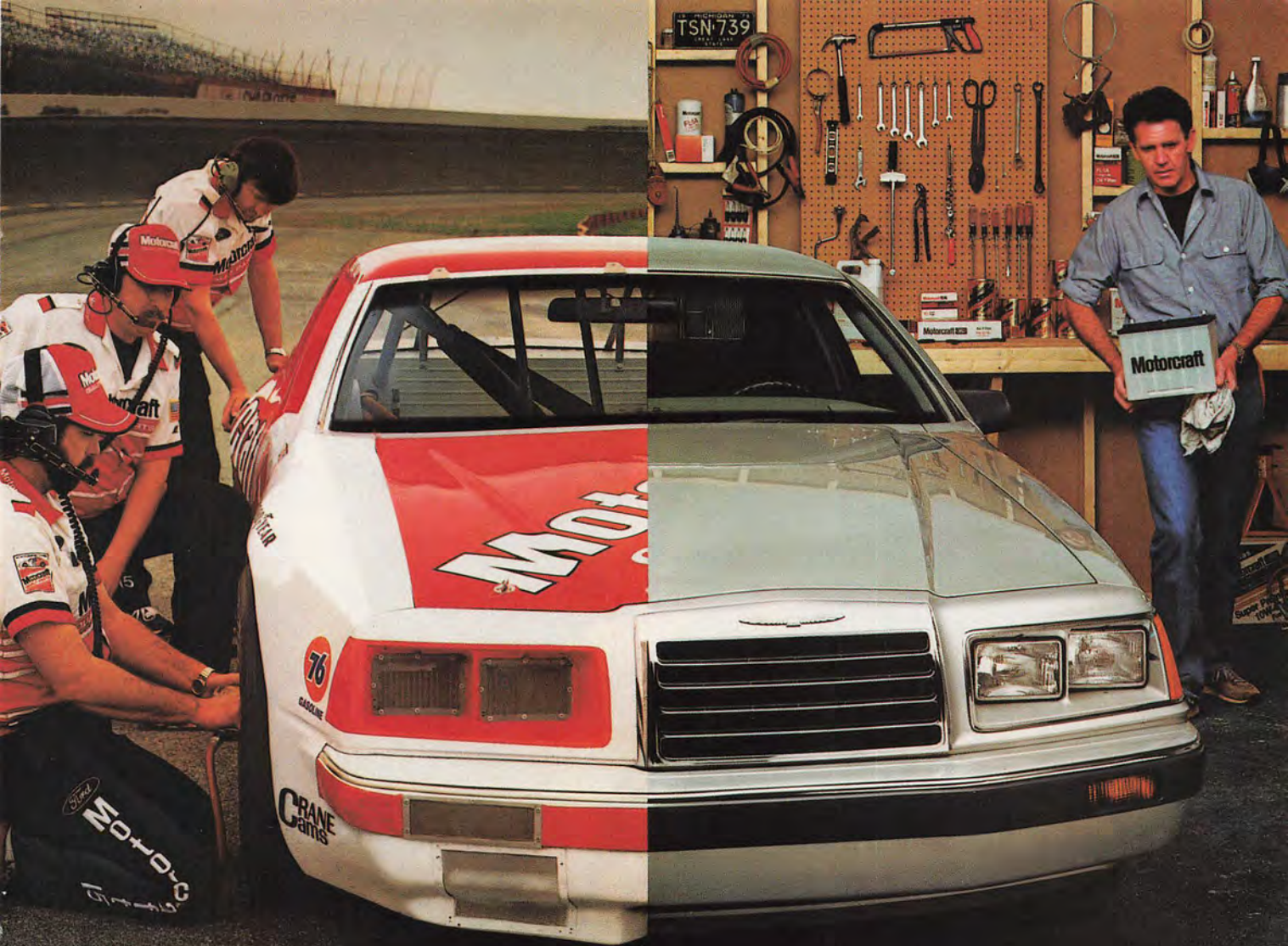
"And how about what this does for a player's endorsements or, more important, how he is perceived in the community?" says FitzPatrick's attorney, Leigh Steinberg. "All kids make mistakes. James made a mistake. But is the price he's paying really fair?"

The kid is sitting in his hotel room at rookie minicamp. He is feeling remorse. But the remorse is fighting a battle with anger, and the kid isn't quite sure which emotion is winning.

"The day it all came out, my agent told me the next day it would be national news, spread all over the country," says the kid. "I went to bed knowing what it felt like to be a condemned man. Tonight I would go to bed a normal guy; tomorrow I'd be a drug addict. My friends tried to help me, tell me it was going to be all right, but it wasn't. My grandparents knew, my friends knew, everyone knew. I felt like a leper."

"Look, I'm not saying what I did was right, because it wasn't. I smoked some grass. I gave in. I was real depressed at the time. I was wrong. I shouldn't have done it, and now I'm paying for it. But this was supposed to be a private matter—between me and the team, that's all. Now everyone thinks I'm a drug addict and I'm not. But I don't think anyone will ever believe the truth." ★

Bryan Burwell writes about the NFL for the New York Daily News.



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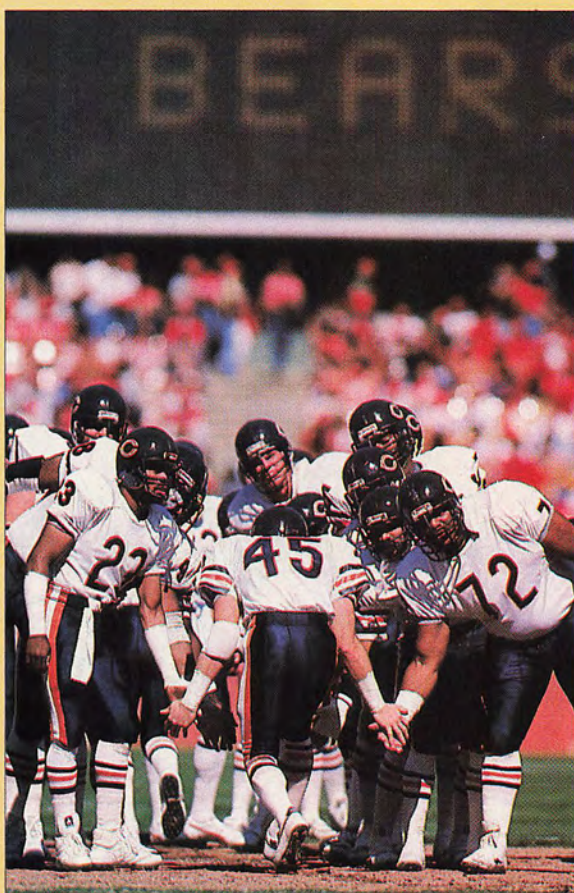
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AIR FORCE

THE 1986 NFL PREVIEW

NFC PREDICTIONS

by Kevin Lamb

**PLAYOFF TEAMS**

BEARS, REDSKINS, GIANTS
RAMS, VIKINGS

MVP

MIKE SINGLETARY, BEARS

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

DALTON HILLIARD, SAINTS

COACH OF THE YEAR

JERRY BURNS, VIKINGS

COACH ON THE SPOT

DAN HENNING, FALCONS

PLAYER ON THE SPOT

STEVE YOUNG, BUCS

DRAFT COUP

MIKE SHERRARD, COWBOYS

TAKE THE POINTS

VIKINGS

DON'T GIVE THE POINTS

COWBOYS

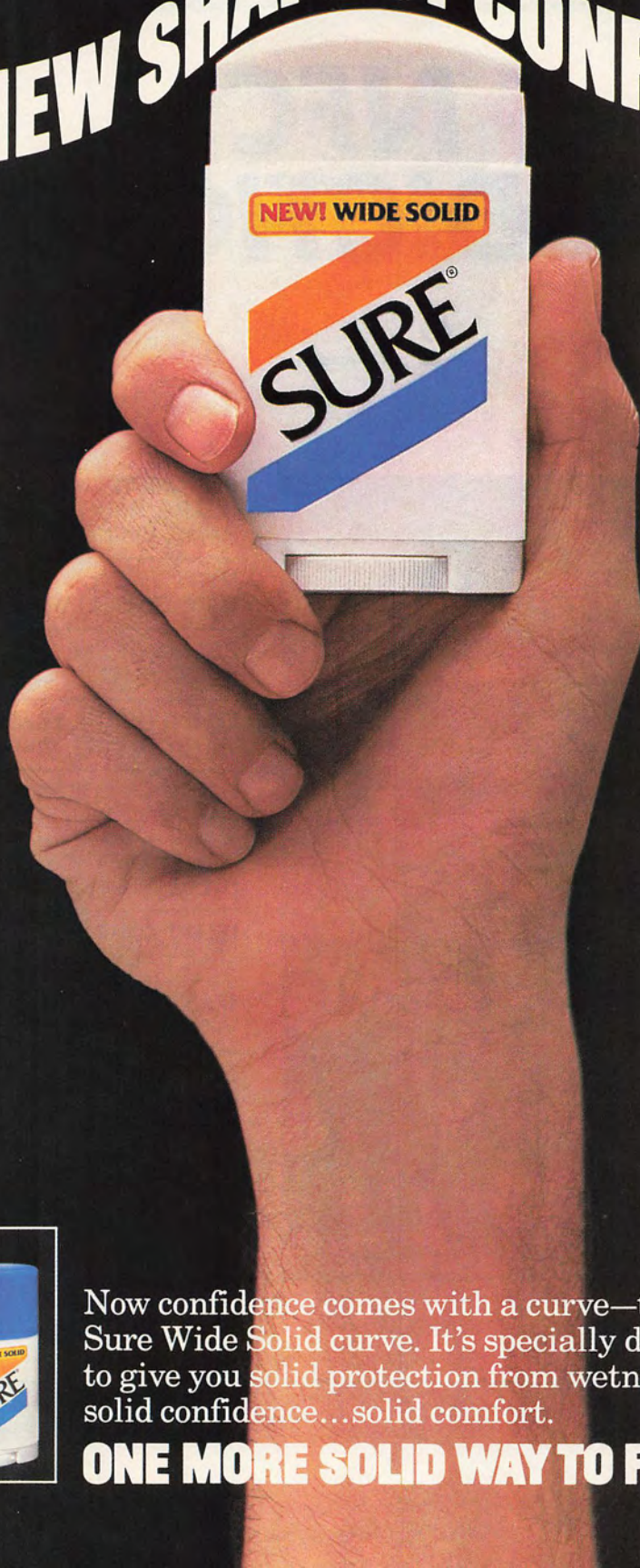
◀ NFC CHAMPION

BEARS

CLICHE TO WATCH

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ONE MORE SOLID WAY TO FEEL SURE.

NFC EAST

The Skins are rebuilt, the Giants reloaded and the Eagles revived—thanks to the Buddy system.

1 WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Anyone can have a rebuilding year. The Redskins had what amounted to a rebuilding month last season. They started 1-3, sorted out serious problems with their receivers and wound up tied for first in their division at 10-6. They finished with three straight wins behind their quarterback and running back of the future, the NFL's most prolific pair of pass catchers at wide receiver and the most catches from a tight end since 1975.

KEY PLAYERS

Jay Schroeder overcame injuries and big deficits to win two late games in a row, but in college and pros combined, he has thrown 274 passes—half a season's work for Dan Marino...without **Joe Theismann**, there is no quarterback depth behind a line that has trouble against the great one-on-one pass rushers...**Mark Moseley** missed 8 of 15 field goal tries in last four games. Maybe it was Theismann's absence as holder. Maybe not.

The Redskins aren't a young team, but age is a problem only when an old guy can't play and there isn't a young replacement in the wings. When Washington's old guys have finally had it, there's Jay Schroeder stepping in for Joe Theismann at quarterback or George Rogers for John Riggins at tailback.

Even so, people figure a team that trades its No. 1 draft choice 16 out of 19 years has to run out of bodies sometime. They aren't paying attention, though. The Redskins know how to get their No. 1 choices a year earlier than everyone else.

Here's how it worked last spring. GM Bobby Beathard liked defensive lineman Markus Koch and wide receiver Walter Murray. He figured both would be available in the second round, when he

had his first pick. But he considered both worth a first-round choice, which he had for next year. He took Koch with his first pick and traded the future No. 1 for a second-round pick to take Murray.

And the Skins pounce on other teams' mistakes. Six starters, both kickers and the top return man were cut or traded by other teams. That's how they limit themselves to one or two trouble spots at a time. That makes rebuilding easy.

2 NEW YORK GIANTS

What could the Giants have been thinking? Here they were, with a defense the envy of every team outside Chicago, spending six draft choices in the first three rounds—for defense. All six. It was as if the Saudis started importing oil.

Well, two of the second-rounders were defensive backs—corner Mark Collins and safety Greg Lasker. Interceptions were the defense's one sore spot. But three linemen? Well, first-rounder Eric Dorsey seems to be a pass rusher who can stop the run, something the Giants haven't had at left end. And Erik Howard gives them a quick inside rush man.

Didn't Chicago prove you can't have

KEY PLAYERS

If fullback **Rob Carpenter** stays in the lineup at 31, it'll be by default...**William Roberts** is back from knee surgery and ready to fight for the left tackle job. He can help two positions on the line that allowed 52 sacks. **Brad Benson** could move back to guard...**Stacy Robinson** missed 12 games as a rookie but still might be the fleet receiver and returner that Giants fans have been hoping for.

too many great players on defense, especially pass rushers? And isn't Chicago the team the Giants are trying to catch? The Giants' defense wasn't too great to blow four games in the fourth quarter.

The fans who booed their draft remembered a lack of speedy receivers, but that was when Lionel Manuel was injured. The Giants' passing game got by fine. Phil Simms has shown that, given protection, he can be great.

The kicking teams were the weak spot. Field goals were an adventure and kick returns weren't. It's supposed to be the other way around. But you don't draft special teamers in the early rounds.

Their biggest need is the poise to win close games. Five of the Giants' defeats were by a total of 13 points. But team poise is not available on draft day. It takes time. With only five starters past their sixth year, time is something the Giants have.

3 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Buddy Ryan says a guy can't change his personality just because his office says "Head Coach" on the door, but he has to change his outlook about a few things. Rookies, for example. He wants four or five to start for the Eagles right away. That's two or three more than he started in eight years' worth of opening days as Chicago's defensive coordinator.

But Ryan's abrasive criticism has the same old edge, and now there won't be anyone around to soften it. We'll see how well he judges talent, too, without anyone looking over his shoulder.

He hasn't been indecisive. In the off-season, Ryan unloaded three veteran linebackers and cut the starting center. Fourth-round center Matt Darwin and two second-rounders, fullback Anthony Toney and linebacker Alonzo Johnson, are virtually sure to start.

Ryan wants a San Francisco-type offense, with lots of formations and a mobile quarterback throwing quick passes. He got Matt Cavanaugh, the 49ers' backup quarterback, to run it. Ted Plumb, the offensive coordinator from Chicago's staff, takes a more traditional approach than Bill Walsh to establishing the run, a traditional void on

Poise and protection are all that's keeping Simms from greatness.

the Eagles. They won't fill that void until first-rounder Keith Byars' foot heals, perhaps not before next year. Ryan has always said the only way to have a great defense is to run.

KEY PLAYERS

Ryan likes **Mike Reichenbach**, the only holdover starting linebacker, enough to trust him with calling the defense at middle linebacker...**Reggie White** moves from end to tackle in the 4-3 and to the nose in the five-lineman "46." That's Dan Hampton's position in Chicago...Eagles' pride in their receivers is based more on **Kenny Jackson**'s first-round promise than his 66 catches and two TDs in two years.

A linebacker may have been a bigger need than a runner. All Ryan's defenses test linebackers physically and mentally with myriad assignments. The first year, the Eagles will give up big plays. They'll also make them.

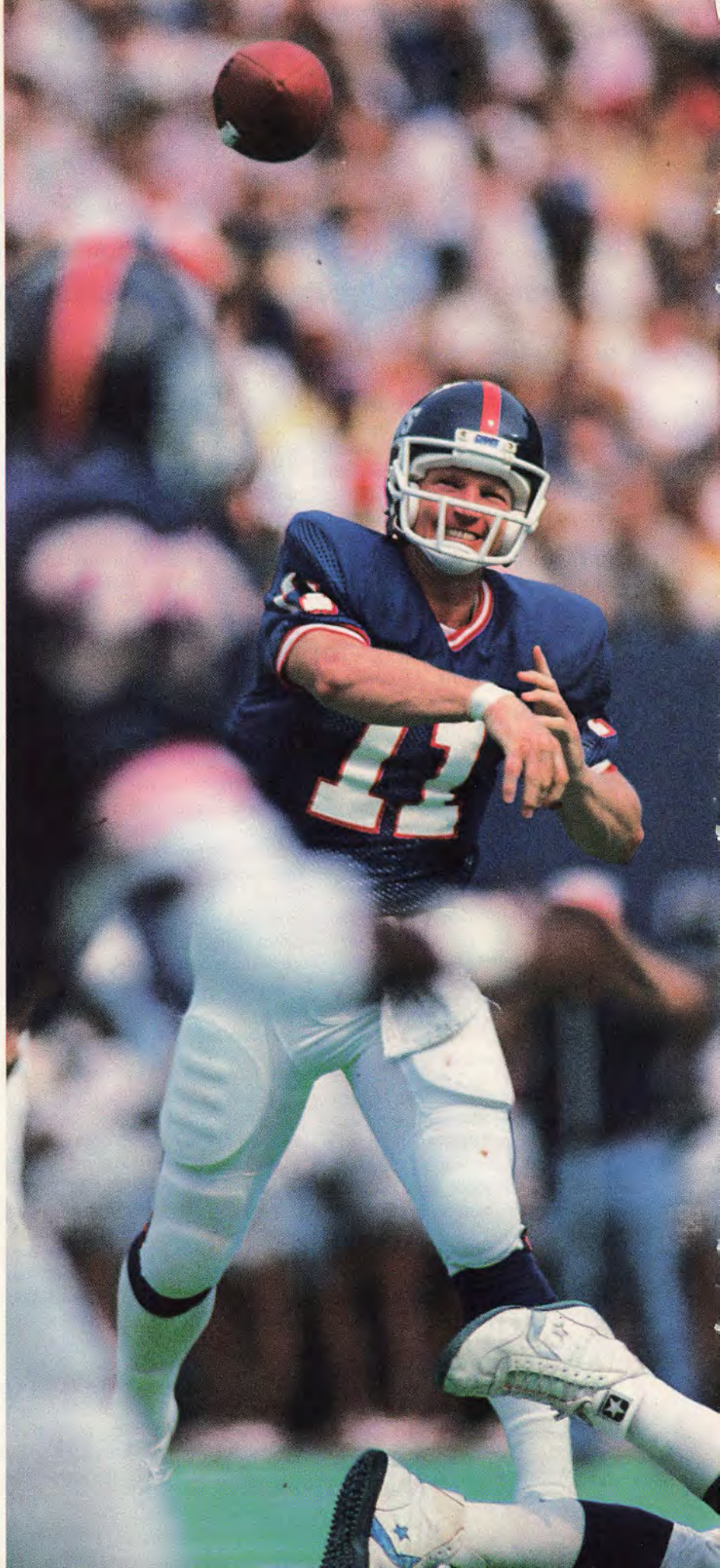
4 DALLAS COWBOYS

NFL games are turning more and more frequently on big plays. Quick strikes don't have to be passes, either. They can be kick returns or fumble returns.

The Cowboys have understood this as well as anybody. But they often outsmarted themselves in searching for big-play athletes. They drafted too many guys with the *tools* to make big plays—quick feet and lightning reaction time—and not enough guys who, in college, had actually made them. Now, personnel boss Gil Brandt says the Cowboys are putting less stock in potential.

And none too soon. They ranked twenty-fourth last year in kickoff returns and last in punt returns, the worst combination in the league. The Rams reached the NFC title game with an offense that had little going for it *but* kick returns.

Before the draft, coach Tom Landry said the Cowboys needed fresh blood. None of this waiting on the bench for three years. All three starting receivers are in their thirties, so Dallas made a trade to grab wideout Mike Sherrard in the first round. The backfield didn't have a Plan B behind 32-year-old Tony Dorsett, so the



second pick was running back Darryl Clack, a good enough receiver to help the passing game right away.

The defensive line has gotten old, too. Three starters are 33-plus. Landry hopes

KEY PLAYERS

Danny White needs to get his aggressiveness back. Since Gary Hogeboom first replaced him at quarterback, White has thrown more interceptions, fewer down-field dares... **Howard Richards** has bounced from backup guard to backup tackle and back again since he was drafted No. 1 in 1981. This is it. He has a chance to win the job at left tackle, where the Cowboys need help... **Jesse Penn** is a promising, quick outside linebacker who could add more big plays to a defense that ranked second in interceptions.

last year's No. 1, Kevin Brooks, can step in. "Someone new has got to move into the defensive line this year," he says. The Cowboys have shifted their gaze from the calendar to the clock.

5 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

What can you say when a young team dies? Nearly everything went wrong. The Cards ranked next-to-last in both sacks

KEY PLAYERS

When Roy Green was the best wide receiver in football, the Cards had one of the best offenses. Without Green's speed threat, due to nagging injuries, **Neil Lomax** looked confused against sagging zone defenses... the defense dropped from seventh to twenty-seventh in sacks, with right end **Curtis Greer** falling from 14 to 7 and middle linebacker **E.J. Junior** from 9.5 to 2. Yet both should be in their prime... **Luis Sharpe** was approaching stardom at left tackle before he wore himself out playing the 1985 USFL season.

made and sacks allowed. They gave up the most touchdown passes and made the fewest interceptions. There were rumors of rampant drug use. Quarterback Neil

PLAYER VS. PLAYER

WALLS RATES THE BOMBARDIERS

Which was Everson Walls' most memorable interception? "Tough question," the all-pro left cornerback laughs. "There's been so many." In five years with the Dallas Cowboys, Walls has led the NFL in interceptions three times and has 34 in 73 regular season games. "I really get excited about interceptions," he says. "When you can halt the offense's progress with one catch and possibly set up your own score, you're talking about being the main event of a 10- or 14-point swing."

Although Walls might be slow, nobody is better at the technique of playing cornerback. Walls has picked off all kinds of passes—out-jumping Art Monk, out-muscling Roy Green, out-thinking Phil Simms. "There's a lot of luck, first of all," he says. "People say, 'He sure is around the ball a lot,' but getting into position to intercept the ball is what I pride myself on."

After becoming the first player ever to lead the league in interceptions his first two years, Walls slipped to a total of seven in the 1983 and '84 seasons. He had become sensitive to criticism that his gambling style cost two long plays for each interception. He became less of a gambler, but not a better player.

In 1985, Walls put it all together, finishing with an NFL-high nine interceptions.

"The odds are against cornerbacks as soon as we step on the field," Walls says. "It's two against one—the quarterback and receiver against you. To be able to withstand the pressure of being out there alone and coming out ahead, it's great."

EVERSON WALLS' TOUGHEST QBs TO READ

1. **PHIL SIMMS**, New York Giants: "His receivers are very shifty and he gets the ball there so fast. By the time you recover, the receiver has the ball. He looks off very well and has his offense down pat."

2. **DAN FOUTS**, San Diego: "Sometimes you try to key off the quarterback's steps, but he takes the same drop every time. You have no key to exploit."

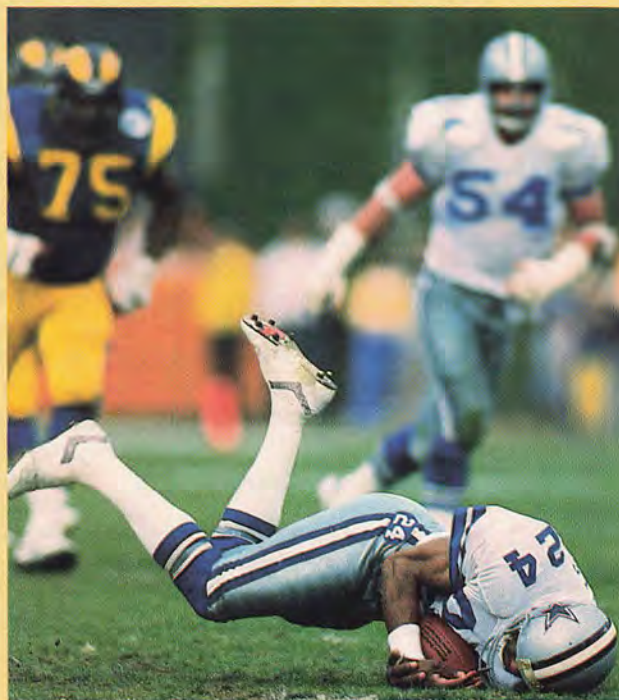
3. **JOE MONTANA**, San Francisco: "He runs an intricate offense with a lot of routes other teams don't use. It's very difficult to know where the ball is going."

4. **BOOMER ESIASON**, Cincinnati: "Lefthanders are always a problem. They always seem to have such unusual accuracy. He's one of the best young quarterbacks in the league."

5. **DAN MARINO**, Miami: "It's not that he's so tough to read—he just fires it in there. You just have to outperform your man."

—Gary Myers

"To withstand the pressure... and come out ahead, it's great."



Lomax went from swaggering to staggering. Yet the Cards still have as much talent as any team in the division.

What do you do? Build on the solid foundation that seemed to be there a year ago? Or go through the roster with a broom? New coach Gene Stallings leans toward the former.

Stallings was Dallas' defensive backfield coach. He will use a 3-4 defense. He'd rather not. He came from a good 4-3, but he says the Cards have better linebackers than linemen. Besides, he says, "They played the 4-3 here last year

and they didn't stop the run or the pass."

He says he'll be less fancy than Dallas on offense. A strong running game goes hand-in-glove with a defensive mindset. The NFL pendulum is swinging back from quantity to quality in the passing game. Running was one thing St. Louis did well, gaining 4.7 yards per carry.

A 5-11 team normally makes more changes. Stallings seems to be banking on a lot of comebacks in a sport in which there's no bounce when a team hits bottom.

NFC CENTRAL

Those Monsters will haunt the Midway—but the Vikes and Bucs will give them a little scare.

1 CHICAGO BEARS

Vince Tobin couldn't be under more pressure if he'd been hired to repaint the Sistine Chapel. As the Bears' new defensive coordinator, he's responsible for the encore performance of a unit that led the NFL in defense the last two years and ignited the hottest trend (the aggressive "46," which puts five men on the defensive line) since the 3-4 defense.

The players' initial reaction to Buddy Ryan's leaving was despair. Ryan made them play beyond their abilities, they said. The argument has some truth, but Tobin's philosophy is similar to Ryan's. It would have been a different story if Coach Mike Ditka had brought someone in to play it safe with sagging zones.

Tobin will be more discreet than Ryan was about blitzing and criticizing, but aside from that he preaches the same gospel of keeping offenses off-guard with variety and pressure. "He was the Buddy Ryan of the USFL," says Sam Mills, a linebacker who played for Tobin with the Philadelphia-Baltimore Stars. They

KEY PLAYERS

If the Bears go to a 3-4, they hope to play **William Perry** at inside linebacker so they don't have to substitute personnel when switching to 4-3. But Perry had swelled to 330 pounds by minicamp, 30 pounds overweight... Bears will rely more on WR **Willie Gault** this year. He has been a valuable threat as a cocked pistol, but his playoff performance showed what he could do when fired.

used a 3-4, but Tobin coached a 4-3 in Canada and planned to try them both in camp. Also, as an outsider, Tobin's more likely to correct any defensive warts the Bears have learned to live with.

All Super Bowl champions have problems simmering below the surface. They

just get overlooked until the team loses in the wild-card round a year later. The Bears have some obvious ones. If wide receiver Dennis McKinnon and cornerback Leslie Frazier miss the season, as expected, those 32 starts lost to injury will be five more than they had all last season. A team doesn't bring in four new assistant coaches without transitional problems. It doesn't win the Super Bowl and the battle of the budget without contract problems. Even Ditka's temper, quiet through an 18-1 season, may simply have been a fuse without a match.

But complacency doesn't seem to be among the problems. Most of the Bears were against playing their exhibition in London this summer. They didn't want to be joyriding across the Atlantic when there was a championship to be defended.

2 MINNESOTA VIKINGS

When an offensive line has a serious weakness at left tackle, sooner or later the quarterback is going to get hurt.

The Vikings were lucky to get quarterback Tommy Kramer through last season in one piece. Kramer probably dodges the pass-rush better than even Joe Montana, and he still went down 39 times. After trying three people at left tackle, the Vikings promised themselves to get a veteran there this year. The job takes too long for a rookie to learn.

It's the toughest position on the line because most defenses have their best pass-rushers at right end or linebacker. Beating the Richard Dents and Lawrence Taylors requires strength and Fred Astaire footwork. And the more defenses blitz, the more important it is to have a left tackle who can block one-on-one.

The Vikings wound up with an NFL rookie, but Gary Zimmerman has proven himself at left tackle in the USFL. Unless contract talks collapse, he's the last key piece in what could be an exciting offense. A dominant running back would be nice, but offensive coordinator Jerry Burns made do nicely with a backfield

last year, and head coach Jerry Burns will do the same now.

His biggest need on defense is the flip side of the left tackle problem. Only two

KEY PLAYERS

Young Viking defense has makings of a turnover machine. Safety **Joey Browner** forced four fumbles and recovered five, linebacker **Dennis Fowlkes'** numbers were five and one... **Robert Smith**, who came over from the USFL, has the size and speed to become the pass rusher Doug Martin was always supposed to be... head coach **Jerry Burns**, 59, was passed by in rush to hire young offensive turks, but he was using one-back attack and ball-control passing before Joe Gibbs and Bill Walsh made them fashionable.

teams had fewer sacks last year, so the Vikings spent their first-round draft choice on the best pass-rusher, Gerald Robinson. He's small, but so was Dent, who is quick enough to put blockers behind him after two steps. "For two steps," Chicago coach Mike Ditka says of Robinson, "he looks just like Dent."

3 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

How far can a great rookie back carry a team? If it's a horrible team, like the 0-14 Buccaneers that drafted Ricky Bell or the 1-15 Saints that drafted George Rogers, not far. On much better teams, Earl Campbell put Houston over the playoff hump and Tony Dorsett was the final element on a Super Bowl champion.

Bo Jackson's 1986 Bucs are somewhere in between. They're more like Billy Sims' 1980 Lions or Eric Dickerson's 1983 Rams. Jackson has a good enough offense at Tampa Bay to make a difference. The line's only weak spot is left tackle (which ex-Jet Marvin Powell may help) but that



With Bo in tow, Jimmie Giles and the Bucs will be hard to keep down.

hurts the pass more than the run. The passing game is good enough. In fact, with Jackson complementing Steve Young, the Bucs could have their best passing game ever. All Jackson has is Jim Brown's size with Ron Brown's speed.

The other question the Bucs must answer is how to keep both Jackson and James Wilder busy. Only Marcus Allen and Walter Payton have gained more yards running and receiving over the last two years than has Wilder. And he and Jackson both thrive on frequent carries.

If any coach can handle that problem, it's Leeman Bennett. There's room for at least 10 more carries a game simply from the extra first downs Jackson can supply. Wilder averaged 23 a game. The other backs averaged one. That's 34 carries, which might be enough, especially

KEY PLAYERS

The trade of Hugh Green left the Bucs' defense without a disrupter-at-large, a role predicted for linebacker **Keith Browner** when he was drafted in '84. So far, Browner hasn't cracked a weak lineup... a full training camp could help **Steve Young**. He was tentative last year, too eager to run and not bold enough about forcing the action downfield...rookie tackle **J.D. Maareleveld**, a fifth-round selection, may be the sort of tough giant who could solidify the Bucs' line.

when you throw in eight catches a game by Wilder and the U-backs.

The Bucs aren't that far from the sunny side of mediocrity. Last year, they had five straight games against the Giants and the four teams that played for the conference championships, and only New England whipped them without a scare.

4 DETROIT LIONS

Coach Darryl Rogers prefers to think the Lions were snakebit on the road last year rather than lucky at home. Those are the only two reasonable explanations for a team that went 6-2 at home—beating the Cowboys, 49ers, Dolphins and Jets—but 1-7 on the road with losses to the Colts and Bucs. The popular theories—stadium noise, type of airplane, surface of field—make better copy than sense.

SINGLETARY RATES THE SPEED BACKS

It hurts so good.

It hurts so good that Bear middle linebacker Mike Singletary can't wait for the next play, the next collision, the next catharsis. His teammates call him "Samurai."

"Very seldom do I feel pain at all," says Singletary, the NFC's 1985 defensive player of the year. "The intensity at the time of contact is so high that you just don't feel it. In fact it really electrifies my whole day. I really enjoy the feeling."

What Singletary doesn't enjoy are the facile comparisons with Dick Butkus and Ray Nitschke—two brawling linebackers who flourished in an era when football was less precise. Singletary is no less ferocious but much more scientific.

"It takes a lot of concentration to get to a point where you can shuffle—not crossing your legs—making sure your body is parallel to the line of scrimmage. I want to make sure the running back doesn't run over me. If I'm shuffling, my power is still there. Anytime I can draw a line straight through my body—with my feet shoulder-length apart and my body low—and if I'm intensified, I'm going to have a chance to tackle the way I want to tackle."

"The intensity at the time of contact... electrifies my whole day."



"When a good hit is done right neither you nor the ballcarrier comes away with an injury. It's just something the running back is really shocked by. He's looking at me and kinda saying, 'Wow, that's a strange feeling.' And we both get up and walk away from it."

In high school his coaches preached the gospel of the "impact" hit. At Baylor they taught him to "coil like a snake, to use every muscle from the toe to the tip of your nose." And Singletary loved to listen, especially when they emphasized thinking "through" the ballcarrier. "That," says Singletary, "is really the bottom line."

MIKE SINGLETARY'S TOUGHEST RUNNING BACKS TO HIT

1. **OTTIS ANDERSON**, St. Louis: "For a big guy he's really elusive. He's got really good moves, but at the same time, he'll run right over you."
2. **ERIC DICKERSON**, Rams: "He's so long. It's like trying to hit a stick. But at the same time, he's huge. My goodness, it's by sheer fate that you get a good hit on him."
3. **MARCUS ALLEN**, Raiders: "He's always tough because he's always moving. I've seen him fake guys out and make it look like they twisted their ankle or something."
4. **GERALD RIGGS**, Atlanta: "He runs so low and he's so huge. I've seen him just riddle people—linebackers."
5. **TONY DORSETT**, Dallas: "He's like Allen, always moving. It's hard to get a hit on him."

—Brian Hewitt

But Rogers isn't basing his plans on hopes. "If you get better personnel," he says, "it makes it easier to play better on the road." Bingo. The Lions happened to catch San Francisco and Miami at the bottom of erratic seasons, or they might have been another 5-11 team waiting eagerly for the draft.

To the Lions' credit, that's how they looked at themselves. They could have said they were a few good breaks and a halfback away from playoff contention and targeted their draft for urgent needs. Instead, they collected a nucleus for 1988.

They traded an extra pick to get halfback Garry James in the second round, but their other early choices were for the future: quarterback Chuck Long and third-round tackle Joe Milinichik.

James has the speed to complement fullback James Jones. The Lions didn't

do much to help the poor rushing defense, but that could improve if they only keep the ball an extra minute a game. Last year, no team had the ball less.

KEY PLAYERS

L leading tackler **William Graham**, the free safety, could help more against the run at strong safety. It's up to CB **William Frizzell** or rookie **Devon Mitchell**, to make Graham's move possible... **Curtis Green** is a good lineman in search of a position, and the Lions are a 3-4 defense in search of a good nose tackle. The match looked promising late last year... QB **Chuck Long** will sit. No point to working him into offense now.

The most glaring home-road stat last year was Detroit's plus-7 turnovers at home and minus-12 away. There's a lot of luck in turnovers that vary that much. The Lions need something more reliable. They need good players.

5 GREEN BAY PACKERS

Quarterback **Lynn Dickey** got off to a bad start from two training-camp injuries. The Packers finally had a respectable defense, but they were losing again, and he wasn't able to do a thing about it. He just felt like totally bummed out and asked to be lifted from the lineup.

The offensive design may have been a problem. Coordinator **Bob Schnelker's**

KEY PLAYERS

Defense needs a starting end. After three back operations, **Ezra Johnson** is suited for pass-rush use only, or he won't last long. Gregg says **Alphonso Carreker** is ready to blossom in his third season... the Packers ranked fifth in interceptions when free safety **Tom Flynn** had nine as a 1984 rookie, then slumped to twenty-seventh last year, when Flynn had one.

downfield passing emphasis worked fine when Dickey had the blockers to protect him for four seconds, but four of the five starting linemen last year were new starters since 1983. Now Schnelker's gone and Forrest Gregg is promising more of the quick passing plays that took his Cincinnati team to a Super Bowl.

He drafted just the quarterback to do it, too. **Robbie Bosco** went in the third round instead of the first because a shoulder injury left questions about his arm. **Joe Montana** entered the league in the same round amid the same questions.

The Packers' 4.7 yards per carry ranked second in the league. **Eddie Lee Ivey**, **Jessie Clark** and **Gerry Ellis** were very good backs with more than 500 yards each. Unfortunately, none of them gained 700. The Packers could use a great back. They may have found one in rookie **Kenneth Davis**, whose senior-year suspension pushed him into the second round.

The Giants were the only winning team **Green Bay** beat. Last year was the Packers' fifth in a row on the cusp of greatness. That's long enough for a team to get old. It's time for a new order to take charge, but the Packers don't have one ready.

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It's sunny in L.A. and cloudy everywhere else—which, in New Orleans, is an improvement.

1 LOS ANGELES RAMS

Quarterbacks are the Rams' version of chicken soup. Pass rush not what it should be? Time for a new quarterback. Offensive line getting old? A quarterback should take care of that, too.

To be fair, the Rams did need a quarterback. They ranked last in NFL passing. Late last season, Dieter Brock looked like he was trying to throw a Frisbee end over end. After they lost the NFC championship game, they felt they were one quarterback away from the Super Bowl.

They got a good one, too, provided 33-year-old Steve Bartkowski can move. You could stock a Japanese restaurant with all the blades that have been in his right knee. But if the blockers can keep him on his feet, Bartkowski still has the strong arm the Rams need to revive their deep-passing game.

KEY PLAYERS

Coach **John Robinson** spent three years assembling a long passing game to take pressure off **Eric Dickerson**. But the Rams' gain per catch dropped from 13.53 yards to 12.27. If long ball returns, Robinson may scrap two-back offense plans, good news for Dickerson...tight end **Tony Hunter**, who was acquired last year for his speed, and wide-out **Ron Brown**, who caught only 14 passes, must become regular targets...best hope for an inside pass rush is third-year nose tackle **Shawn Miller**, who had five sacks as a part-timer.

What's more, the Rams drafted a quarterback. Maybe this means the end of their savior-of-the-year procession. Maybe when third-rounder Hugh Millen is ready to play, they'll stick with him.

The offensive linemen they claimed in the first two rounds were also good choices. Brock took a lot of heat for the

Rams' 57 sacks, fifth most in the league, but even if he did hold the ball too long, the linemen are in for a bigger challenge with Bartkowski. The rookies, Mike Schaad and Tom Newberry, are promising but unpolished. That means no immediate help from the draft.

The Rams feel they're beyond needing that kind of immediate help. Coach John Robinson pointed out what the Bears did after being shut out in the 1984 NFC championship game. The analogy may depend on the Rams' being able to turn an excellent defense into an overwhelming one. The secondary is the best in the league, the run defense rates with the Bears', the team sack total climbed from 33 in 1983 to 56 last year.

The Rams were good enough to reach the conference championship round on a 47-yard passing game. Imagine how good they could be with 147.

2 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The NFC held its breath all year, waiting for the real 49ers to stand up. That was them all along, it turned out. They just weren't a great team anymore.

The problem wasn't complacency. It wasn't bad luck with snowballs. It was two lines growing old.

You don't win championships these days without splashing a few quarterbacks. After the season, coach Bill Walsh called the pass rush "a critical area." Fred Dean was just another undersized lineman with sore knees. He had three sacks, and the 49ers did everything to coax him into retirement short of sending him slippers and a La-Z-Boy. Only Jeff Stover's emergence as a specialist kept the pass-rush out of the archives.

Their draft could help them, but probably not right away. Second-rounder Larry Roberts, the 49ers' first pick, is quick but raw. Fourth-rounder Kevin Fagan might have been a first-rounder, but his reconstructive knee surgery put his career in doubt. Third-year nose tackle Michael Carter is the best hope for

defensive improvement. San Francisco was 7-2 after his return from injury.

The offensive line is a bigger concern. Four of the starting six, counting tight end Russ Francis, have played at least 10 seasons. The 49ers' 42 sacks allowed were up 15 from 1984, and a less resourceful quarterback would have hit the deck a dozen more times. As it was, Chicago sacked Joe Montana seven times, a career high, and the Giants wiped their feet all over him in the playoffs. Montana's right shoulder strain from that game still bothered him in May.

Even the vaunted passing attack shows some fraying at the seams. New backup quarterback Jeff Kemp needs time to

KEY PLAYERS

At 35, placekicker **Ray Wersching** stopped being automatic last year. He had four field goals and an extra point blocked...there's no halfback promise behind 31-year-old **Wendell Tyler**, which was why Walsh showed interest in drafting Ronnie Harmon and trading for Joe Cribbs...right guard **Randy Cross**, 32, must recover from a second knee injury in his eleventh season...third-round pick **Tim McKyer** might be the cornerback the 49ers have been looking for since **Ronnie Lott's** beat-up legs forced him inside...**John Taylor** has the big-play potential to be a dazzling third wide receiver.

learn the offense. Freddie Solomon's retirement leaves only two wide-outs who caught more than 10 balls. And Walsh needed two assistants to replace quarterbacks-receivers coach Paul Hackett, who left for Dallas. Coaching raids like that are unheralded forces for parity.

3 ATLANTA FALCONS

Dan Henning is out of excuses. He finally had his handpicked quarterback and



defensive coordinator, along with full authority. He has collected an impressive stable of talent since replacing Leeman Bennett three years ago. He also has a record of 15-33, without a winning streak longer than two games. The ax is hanging over Henning, who has a one-year contract and an ultimatum.

His best hope is on defense, oddly enough. The Falcons allowed 452 points last year, most in the NFL. They ranked next to last in passing yardage and touchdown passes allowed. Big plays blew them away, and no wonder, in light of their abrupt switch to the Bears' aggressive "46" defense. Nineteen touchdowns against them were for 20 yards or more.

The team seemed to have the personality for the 46. It had a good share of young hell-raisers. But the 46 isn't something you draw up on the charter flight and unleash the next day. New defensive coordinator Marion Campbell will take the defense in the other direction. The Eagles fired Campbell as head coach because Campbell was too conservative.

But that might just be the ticket for Atlanta. Campbell plays it safe in the secondary without forgetting to rush the passer. His shifting zone defenses can confuse an offense and still keep de-

KEY PLAYERS

Turk Schonert finally gets the ball at quarterback after five years of impressive fill-in work at Cincinnati. But who's going to catch the ball? The Falcons need comebacks from wide-outs **Charlie Brown**, whose last two seasons have been interrupted by injuries, and **Stacey Bailey**, whose catches dropped from 67 to 30, with no TDs... **Mike Kenn**, one of the league's best left tackles, has to come back at 30 from knee surgery... return of fullback **William Andrews** would be a bonus two years after a knee injury that included nerve damage.

The Rams' defense can turn heads—as Wendell Tyler can attest.

fenders watching the ball, which gives them a head start on turnovers. The Falcons' takeaway stat should be a good barometer.

The line was the strength of Atlanta's defense. It is even stronger now, with the addition of rookie nose tackle Tony Casillas, who could be an instant star. With former first-rounders Mike Pitts and Rick Bryan, the Falcons could break their meager team record of 47 sacks. Tim Green, the other first-round rookie, has the big-play knack and versatility to become a roving, one-man gang like Denver linebacker Karl Mecklenburg.

The offense has a lot of good, young linemen, but four starters were injured last year. That's becoming a pattern. When injuries persist year after year, the problem usually is more bad conditioning than bad luck. Another year of that would be bad news for Henning.

DICKERSON RATES THE HIT MEN

On January 4, 1986, Eric Dickerson splurged for 248 yards in the playoffs, against the vaunted Dallas "flex" defense. No back had ever run for more yards against the Cowboys. No back had ever rushed for more yards against *anybody* in a playoff game. And nobody appreciated it more than Rams head coach John Robinson. "Goddamn," Robinson gulped, "there's nothing more exciting than watching that man run."

Especially when it's a big run. A breakaway. As on the first play of the second half, when Dickerson burst 55 yards up the gut of the Dallas defense for a TD. When the hole opens and the defensive backs turn, dip their heads and break into a full sprint, Eric Dickerson says, there's no better feeling on earth. "You can feel chills when you know you're gone. It's

"You feel chills when you know you're gone."



almost like a natural high. All of a sudden the defensive back isn't trying to tackle you. He's trying to catch you."

Dickerson can't remember anybody ever telling him how to run. "They just let me do it. It's instinct. I watch myself on film and am amazed sometimes at what I'm seeing. I thought John [Robinson] was going to try and change me when I got to the Rams. But after a while he just said, 'Run to what you see.'"

"Now our whole blocking scheme is set up to let me run anywhere I can. I can take the ball anywhere, inside or outside, penetrate or go to the sideline."

It's not easy talking about Dickerson's art. "It's not really possible to talk to others about instincts," he says. "You might talk to a guy after a game. One time O.J. Anderson came up to me and said, 'By halftime I could tell you were really pumped up to run.' I said, 'Yeah, I really felt good.'" Dickerson's output in that game was 208 yards. There were a lot of chills that day.

ERIC DICKERSON'S TOUGHEST OPEN-FIELD TACKLERS

1. **MIKE SINGLETARY**, Chicago: "Very aggressive, so aggressive that he sometimes takes himself out of the play. But he's a very good tackler."
2. **TOM FLYNN**, Green Bay: "A good hitter. When you get into the secondary you've got to look for him."
3. **TODD BELL**, Chicago: "When he's playing, if you get into the secondary, you want to have your offensive linemen looking for him."
4. **EVERSON WALLS**, Dallas: "Very good open-field tackler. He's more than just an interceptor."
5. **WES HOPKINS**, Philadelphia: "I was in school with him. He's very punishing."

—Brian Hewitt

4 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The Saints tried everything from loose purse strings to voodoo rituals before turning desperately to common sense last January, when they hired Jim Finks as general manager. Last year was the ninth time in 19 seasons they lost at least 10 games, and Bum Phillips' .391 winning percentage at New Orleans is actually the team record.

Finks won't be rushed. He won't be flashy. He'll build through the draft, and he'll cast out the deadwood, which probably will include running back Earl Campbell and either quarterback Richard Todd or Dave Wilson. They represent three of Bum Phillips' impatiently spent number-one draft choices.

Finks talks of being "the best organiza-

tion in the league," not merely the best team. One follows the other. Detroit coach Darryl Rogers said the Bears' success last year was due less to a fancy defense or a fat fullback than to "sound organizational decisions over 10 years." Finks was the GM who laid the foundation. He built a Viking team that went to four Super Bowls—two after he left.

If **Bobby Hebert** can do over 16 games what he did for 6 last year, the Saints have their first quarterback to build the team around since Archie Manning left four years ago...no Saint receiver has caught more than 50 passes since 1980...**Eugene Goodlow** finally became a deep threat in his third NFL season, but this is the year he must break out and show that his 100-catch Canadian season wasn't a fluke...**Hokie Gajan** is the best running back no one has heard of, averaging more than five yards a carry for the third straight season...Saints may have a steal in second-round rookie **Dalton Hilliard**, a local LSU hero whose leg strength reminds people in Chicago of Walter Payton.

Finks has never fired a coach he hired. Jim Mora fits the mold of low-key men who succeeded in other leagues, following Finks' previous choices of Bud Grant and Jack Pardee.

Mora will coach the Saints. That's all. Bill Kuharich will direct their scouting. Phillips had a cockamammy scouting system that relied solely on film, so the scouts wouldn't learn more than the coaches by actually visiting the schools. Under Finks, the assistant coaches won't scout. They'll learn about draft choices with the rest of us, just as the scouts will not draw up plays on Saturday nights.

On the field, the first order of business was to shore up a running game that produced four touchdowns. Finks spent his first draft choice on Jim Dombrowski, the sort of offensive tackle you can only get in the top 10, and three of the next four picks on running backs. The Saints may be the NFL's slowest team.

The defense can wait. Offenses take longer to build. And it takes longer to build a consistent winner than a .500 team. But it also lasts longer.

SUPER BOWL LINE

Bears favored by four over the Broncos. The Bears have the better defense and running game; the Broncos are more opportunistic. But the game may turn on this, a tip from someone who knows both head coaches: Whether the contest is golf, checkers or football, Mike Ditka never loses to Dan Reeves, his friend and former colleague at Dallas. Take Chicago and give the points.

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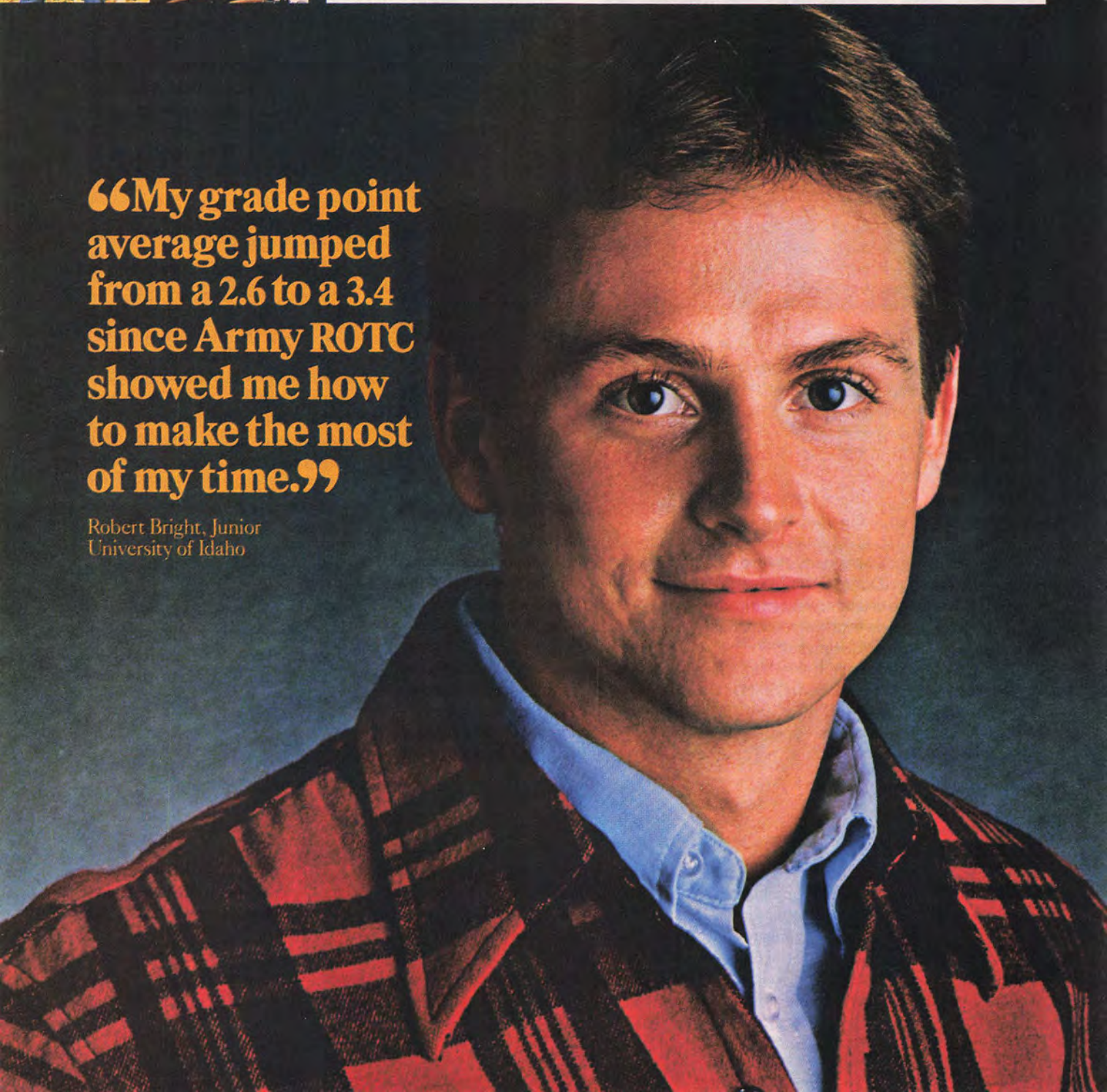
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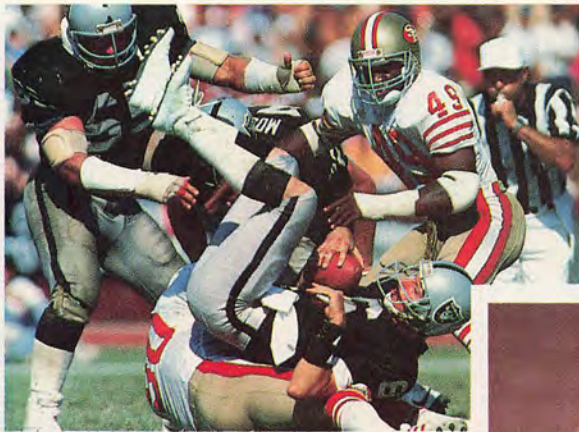
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DID YOU HEAR WHAT WE HEARD?

...about Al Davis ...or Steve Young...or John Jefferson...

By J. David Miller



ADVANTAGE TRUMP

After three interceptions and generally inept play by **Marc Wilson** led to the Raiders' 27-20 defeat by New England in the 1985 playoffs, an anonymous teammate pinned the following note on the lockerroom bulletin board: "Stop me before I kill again. [Signed] Marc Wilson." When Wilson entered the clubhouse, he hurled his helmet at the wall in disgust. "I'm surprised it wasn't picked off," muttered a teammate.

Raiders owner **Al Davis** signed Wilson to a multimillion-dollar multiyear pact in 1983, when USFL mogul Donald Trump tried to lure him away. Davis, who prides himself as being a fine judge of talent, was recently overheard telling a confidant that the Wilson deal "is the only time in player negotiations I've been had.... I panicked when Trump got involved. I could kick myself."

The Raiders have Wilson listed No. 1 heading into camp, but look for second-year man **Rusty Hilger** from Oklahoma State to wow the Raiders brass in preseason and win the starting job. Jim Plunkett, at age 38, is fighting injuries and time.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, the Rams are wondering what to do with disappointing **Dieter Brock**. "At least he's not costing us 900 grand a year," says a Rams official.

MAXICAMP

This spring the Oilers held a four-month marathon of five-day-a-week workouts. Players weren't required to attend, but were "urged...strongly" by rookie head coach **Jerry Glanville** "to be here whenever you can." Surprisingly, the club averaged 40 volunteers a week. "Several times we practiced in a down-pour," Glanville recalls. "There wasn't one complaint. If it's a success, I'll be a genius. If it isn't, I'll be unemployed."



MCCLURE? FOR SURE

For the first time in years, the Buffalo Bills may have made a shrewd move. With the first of two picks they had in the twelfth (and final) round, the Bills made 6-6 Bowling Green quarterback **Brian McClure** the three hundred thirteenth choice overall. Coach **Hank Buhlough** indicated it was something of a gamble, even at that late stage. McClure, only the second passer ever to surpass 10,000 yards, set NCAA records for completions, attempts, 200-yard games and offensive plays, but was overweight (240) and failed to impress personnel chiefs during scouting combine workouts.

But when he showed up in Buffalo, McClure was down to a trim 225. His work habits and passing skills, though somewhat raw, have impressed Buffalo brass. "If we hit on this guy, we've got a real good player," personnel czar **Norm Pollom** says. The Bills' two "veteran" quarterbacks have played a total of 14 NFL games, and the team has won only four times in two years.

SAD SACKER

The Miami Dolphins could have the steal of the year in free agent linebacker **John Corker**, nicknamed "Sack Man" after recording 28½ sacks and earning USFL Defensive Player of the Year honors with the Michigan Panthers in 1983.

Corker, originally drafted by the Oilers in 1980, signed with the Dolphins in May after being released by the USFL's Memphis Showboats, who cut him despite his guaranteed contract

worth more than \$200,000 a year. "You know there's something wrong when a team waives a guy knowing they still have to pay him," says a USFL head coach. "Nobody in our league would touch him."

Three head coaches say they suspect Corker has a cocaine problem. "When he's straight, he's Lawrence Taylor," says one. "When he's not, he's horrible."

John Jefferson, once an electrifying acrobat in the San Diego aerial circus, dropped lower and lower in the public eye during his stints with Green Bay and Cleveland and was eventually released. Recently he signed with the Oilers, which surprised no one so much as **Gil Brandt** of the Cowboys.

"John lives almost across the street from our practice facility," says



Brandt. "We brought him in and he looked like a racehorse sitting in my office. Incredible condition. He said he'd be back at 9 o'clock for a workout. He called at 8 and said he wasn't interested in playing football this year."

Rumor is Jefferson has slowed. "I don't know if he can break 4.7 anymore," says a former teammate. Adds one scout: "I can't believe how far J.J. has slipped in such a short time."

ITALIAN STALLION

Shrouded in secrecy, a Washington, D.C., official was planning to smuggle an explosive ingredient out of Italy that would add punch to his already-lethal attack.

A terrorist plot? No, an incident in the football scouting wars. Redskins GM **Bobby Beathard** thought he had uncovered the perfect replacement for Joe Washington: Angelo State's **Wesley Williams**, a 5-8, 180-pound running back who ran a sub-4.5 on grass and—running and catching—tallied 1,556 yards.

Interesting, but too risky to spend a draft pick on. Enter **Cal Stoll**, head coach of the Bologna Warriors of the Italian Football League. Stoll called his friend Beathard, looking for a solid back who could use a pre-NFL tuneup. *Ciao*, Wesley.

On NFL draft day, no one had seen or heard from Williams. Scouting combine reports on him didn't exist. Beathard was smiling, no doubt. But just when it appeared he had staged a coup, the plot thickened. **Mouse Davis**, head coach of the USFL's Jacksonville Bulls, was sorting through stacks of obscure scouting reports in search of receivers for his run 'n' shoot offense when he came across one Wesley Williams. "From what we hear, the little pooper can fly," Mouse says. So the Bulls drafted him in the fifth round of the USFL draft.

Through 10 games in the IFL, Williams was leading the league in rushing, with better than 190 yards per game. That caught the attention of the Seattle Seahawks, who joined the hunt. Stay tuned.

BODY ENGLISH

When doctors told Detroit Lions veteran defensive tackle **Doug English** to retire or risk being paralyzed, English obliged. But he had his own reasons: "To continue playing would risk the use of one of my body's favorite parts," he said with a smile.

EMPLOYMENT LION

Detroit GM **Russ Thomas** is celebrating his fortieth year with the Lions. Thomas was an all-pro tackle, then moved into the front office as a scout, a personnel man and, finally, general manager. "Make that executive vice president and general manager," he grins. "It took forever to get that title."

YOUNG NO MORE?

Tampa Bay quarterback **Steve Young** may be hard-pressed to retain his starting job if backup **Steve DeBerg** continues his charge. Head coach **Leeman Bennett** will view Young skeptically in training camp, having referred to him as possibly a "high-priced mistake."

Tampa coaches were unhappy with Young's "happy feet" and complete inability to throw deep. Young's mobility—once his greatest virtue—has disappeared after two punishing seasons in the USFL. "Steve is very indecisive back there," observes an opposing coach.

DeBerg, meanwhile, "deserves more credit," says Bennett. But with **Bo Jackson** and **James Wilder** in the same backfield, does it really matter which Steve is taking the snaps?

SUPER FLEX

They're predicting a new doomsday in Dallas this year once defensive end **Jim Jeffcoat** comes of age. "He has played beyond our expectations," says Gil Brandt. "We feel this year he will come on like gangbusters."

Jeffcoat is a formidable pass rusher whom the Cowboys compare to Fred Dean.

He could be the next true impact player. In a game against the Cardinals on Thanksgiving Day, Jeffcoat impacted quarterback **Neil Lomax** unconscious. Lomax stood up slowly, shook his head and trotted off the field—to the Cowboys' bench.



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THE END OF THE NFL!

And other inconveniences
facing the league by 1987. Happy new year.

By Michael Marley

The NFL is waiting. The only sounds emanating from the league between minicamp and summer training camp has been the footfalls of its princes and dukes on the stone steps of Manhattan's federal courthouse. They were watching and testifying at the trial of the \$1.5 billion antitrust suit brought against them by the USFL. And waiting for them, in turn, was a year of potentially momentous changes.

An era begins with the end of the trial.

"The NFL remains in a state of suspended animation until this case and the damages from Al Davis' legal victory are settled," says one league watcher. The damages—to be paid as compensation for the league's unsuccessful attempt to block the Raiders' move to Los Angeles—could cost each team millions of dollars. A defeat in the USFL suit could cost them even more—they might lose a network TV contract, or be forced to absorb several USFL teams. It might even cost Pete Rozelle his job. As Howard Cosell has put it, six months from now we might not recognize the NFL.

More likely, the NFL will not lose. But that won't be the end of its headaches.

NFL TV is about to change forever.

There will be no \$2.1 billion sweetheart deal with ABC, NBC and CBS like the one that expires after this season. Both viewer ratings and commercial sales are soft. That means no more giant leaps in income, although NFL cash registers will still sing a happy tune, according to John Mansell, an analyst with Paul Kagan Associates, a TV consultant.

"Every package they've gotten has gone up," Mansell says, "and this one might go up as well. But there might be guarantees based on ratings or percentages. Or the deal might be longer or shorter."

In part, this will open an opportunity for cable TV to break into the game. The number of cable-wired households has reached the level where cable networks have something to offer. ESPN, the Turner Broadcasting System and USA Cable are all formulating plans to entice the NFL. The enticement could take this shape: By charging each of its 37 million subscribers an additional eight cents, ESPN would have almost \$3 million to work with.

"But moving exhibition games to cable is the logical start," Mansell says. "And I could see cable bidding for a Monday night package, although I think ABC will want to retain it for now."

The players will strike next season.

The owners are in a foul mood, and the players are angry over the wholesale dumping of veterans, especially 10-year men and player reps. This year Saints nose tackle Derland Moore took a half-pay cut. Rookie contracts dropped more than 10 percent last year.

"The owners are more hostile than ever," says veteran *Boston Globe* reporter Will McDonough. "They're disturbed about the damages in the Davis case and the fact the USFL has a chance to win its suit. And they don't like the players using drug testing in posturing over collective bargaining. Rozelle has already said drug testing is not a bargaining chip."

Ed Keating, who has experience in negotiations as a player agent, agrees that management-player relations are heading for the rocks. "The majority of those in the NFL Players Association office are ex-renegade players and that is their whole tune," he says. "They say, 'Let's go to court. Let's fight.'"

The issue is more likely to be money than drug testing. "How tough can Upshaw be when other leagues are moving toward more, not less, testing, and when a visible superstar like Lawrence Taylor is still in the papers with his problems," says one insider. "Besides, it's in the NFLPA's interest to say they're going after the druggies."

But whatever the specific dispute, the tinder is in place, lacking only an explosive issue to set it off.

An NFL team will move to Phoenix.

And suddenly the wraps will come off the league's expansion plans. Hello, Oakland. Welcome, Jacksonville. Buffalo is on the verge of becoming extinct in the NFL. As of June 1, the Bills had sold only 13,000 season tickets. Owner Ralph Wilson is a likely candidate to jump to Arizona. And if he does, he will probably go with the blessing of his fellow owners though he won't need it.

The pressures will rise from other would-be NFL cities, who have been put off for years. And that means more political pressure on the league even as its lawyers lobby in return for congressional action to give the NFL antitrust protection to manage its owners. That brings us back to where we started. The waiting will be over. But Pete Rozelle and company will be back climbing those stone federal steps. ★

Michael Marley is a writer and formerly associate producer of ABC Sportsbeat.

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Dallas Cowboys	Philadelphia Eagles
Denver Broncos	Pittsburgh Steelers
Detroit Lions	St. Louis Cardinals
Greenbay Packers	San Diego Chargers
Houston Oilers	San Francisco 49ers
Kansas City Chiefs	Seattle Seahawks
L. A. Raiders	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
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Arkansas	Nebraska
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Colorado State	Oklahoma
Duke	Oregon
Florida	Oregon State
Florida State	Penn State
Furman	Pittsburgh
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BIRTH OF A NOTION

Can pro football come in out of the rain? A new league is banking on it.

By David Levine

It is fourth down, and the team in black and yellow has elected to try a field goal. The kicker takes his position behind the line of scrimmage, alone. There is no holder. He attempts a dropkick, which is worth four points, but it sails just wide. Instead of falling into the seats, the football hits the netting stretched taut between the goal post and the sideline and bounces back into play; after a mad scramble, the team in white downs the ball on its five. Two plays later, the black and yellow team—the Rockford Metros—forces a safety. One of the Metros picks up the football and spikes it into the net as 1,000 or so enthusiastic, if a bit confused, fans cheer lustily. “Ladies and gentlemen,” the PA announcer says, “that is the first score in Arena Football history.”

History was indeed made this past April, at the Rockford (Illinois) Metro Center. Arena Football, featuring eight-man teams playing on a 50-yard field with goal posts surrounded by, yes, netting to keep the ball in play, made its public debut. Indoors.

Arena Football is the brainchild of a 35-year-old former NFL marketing man and USFL executive named Jim Foster. His game offers many other weird innovations, both on the field and in the boardroom, and if all goes as planned, it will become a real league next year, with 12 to 16 teams battling on summer evenings, indoors, around the country. Later this month, two exhibition games will be staged and, Foster hopes, televised on ESPN or CBS.

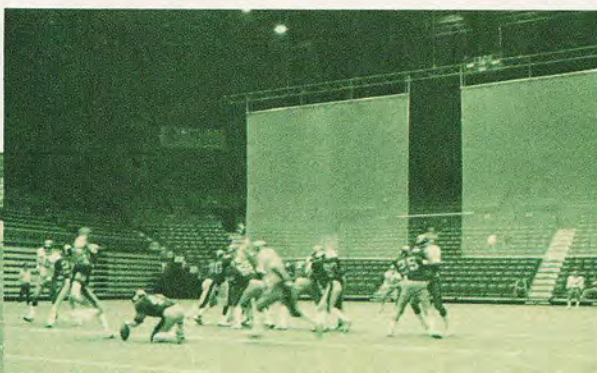
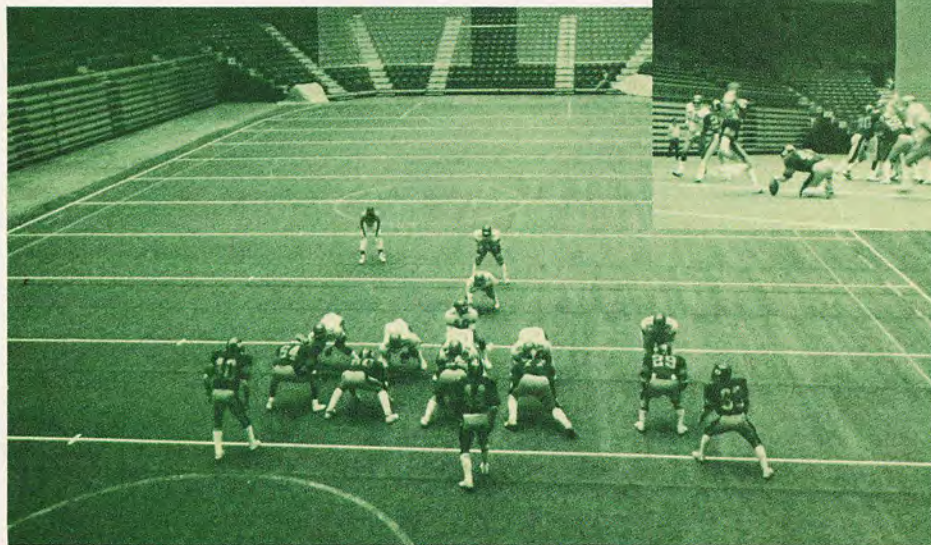
Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the

beach, summer football may be coming back. But where the USFL failed, Arena Football, for all its wacky ideas, just might be crazy enough to work.

Jim Foster, tall, athletic, and possessed of high-beam intensity and tireless energy, admits, “I am a promoter, a creative person. I’m best when I’m taking an idea and going with it.”

He got the idea for Arena Football in 1981 while watching, of course, indoor soccer. “I thought of football games in college,” Foster says, “where you throw a couple of shirts down for end zones, play with seven or eight guys a side, and wondered, ‘Why couldn’t you play indoors?’ I pulled out an envelope, drew a hockey rink, and started drawing X’s and O’s.”

Later, Foster thought of other stuff from his childhood days in Iowa City and incorporated it into his scheme. Stuff like dropkicking (“I knew the field would be too small for punts”), goal posts that are half as wide between the uprights as their NFL counterparts (“I remembered them from University of Iowa practices when I was a kid”) and elastic netting around the posts (“I wanted to keep the ball in play, and thought of those old baseball pitch-back nets that I used to throw footballs at”). Some of the game’s



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more intriguing eccentricities include:

- Single-platoon football: All players (except kickers) must play both offense and defense, which will reduce roster sizes (and the associated payrolls) to 18 players from 45 in the NFL. It will also require players who are smaller and quicker, thus opening up to the new league all those 5-11 quarterbacks and 210-pound linebackers for whom the NFL has no use (think of a league full of Doug Fluties).
- One league, one owner: To prevent any neo-Donald Trumps from screwing up the bottom line, each team will be a subsidiary of the parent corporation (the league), rather than an independent franchise. Owners will sit on the corporation's board of directors.
- Indoor play, at night, on summer weekends: Since most indoor arenas sit empty during much of the summer, cheap entertainment should be welcomed by operators (representatives for The Omni in Atlanta, Madison Square Garden and other arenas were in Rockford for the debut), and it won't compete with daytime activities like golf or softball.

"The USFL did a lot of things wrong," Foster says, "but one thing they did right is prove that there is an audience for summer football." The USFL averaged 26,000 paid attendance per game in its 1983 and '84 seasons; Foster's economics predict a profit can be made with only 13,000 fans per game paying 9 or 10 bucks a head.

- Moving clock: Time won't stop for incomplete passes and out-of-bounds plays except in the final minute of each half, speeding up the action; Foster figures Arena Football games will take less than two and a half hours, compared to over three hours for a typical NFL game.

But the best idea of all was to make it football, ersatz though it might be. Doug Verb, former publicist with the Major Indoor Soccer League, has joined Foster's company. "It's taken eight years to sell indoor soccer," Verb says, "and still, when I say 'indoor soccer' people say 'soccer?' But here, when I say 'indoor football' they say, 'FOOTBALL!' You know? Football. It's American."

In the end, though, the game's the thing. And the Rockford game, although it's the first of its kind and still in rough form, proves that once you get past the dropkicks and net rebounds and three-man offensive lines, it is basic, full-padding, heavy-hitting football. "It's fast," says one player, Bob Boyd, a running back from the University of Hawaii. "The field's small so you don't miss the

other guys. I think it'll go. It's fun."

Fun? In the NFL, football is serious. Football is war. It's hard to think of football as fun. Seen indoors though, close up, from row 10 rather than row 302, football becomes loud, rough, human. Exciting. If nothing else, this game reminds the fan that football *can* be fun.

The test game drew promising responses from nearly everyone involved. Five hundred questionnaires were passed out (what's a new product without a market research study?) and over 400 were returned. Seventy percent found the game Very Entertaining; 73 percent called it Very Likely they'd attend a game in their area. Among the games, uh, distinguishing characteristics, a full 90 percent said they Like Very Much being able to sit so close to the field. (Seventy-three percent liked playing the ball off the nets.)

One of Foster's investors roamed the stands talking to fans. "To a man, they said they'd pay to see the game again," he reported, obviously relieved.

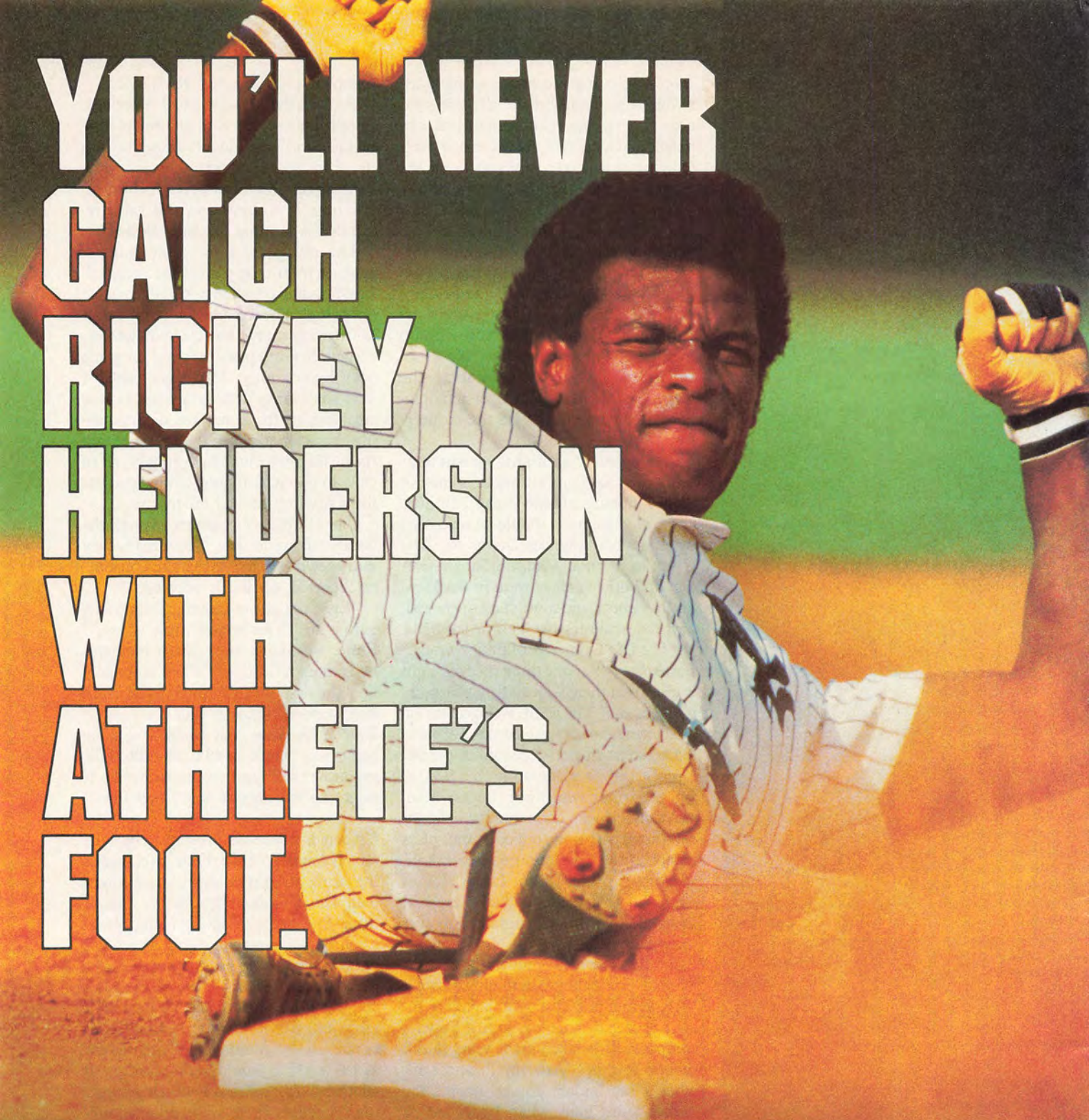
"Even the players were grabbing me, telling me, 'This is great, this is fun,'" Foster says. Later, in a quieter moment, he is more reflective. "When you really do it the first time, you catch your breath and wonder, 'What if this is all folly?' Even if we never play again, I've done something people said I'd never do. This might be the biggest thing I ever do. It might be the biggest idea I ever have."

There is still some tinkering to be done on Arena Football. Foster is considering using a slightly larger, heavier football. He is evaluating whether two or three linemen should be ineligible to catch passes. And the teams here don't quite know how to use the nets. (Foster isn't even sure about some of the rules yet, like if it's legal to catch a pass off a rebound.) But if "it's not real football," as one fan says, neither is it "as different as I thought it would be," according to another. Foster's Arena Football prospectus proclaims there is "excellent long-term financial opportunity for properly developed and marketed late spring/summer pro-football product."

Pro-football product. Kind of like Beatlemania. Call it Footballmania. Not "real football," but an incredible simulation.

"The final score," the PA announcer bellows, "your Rockford Metros 30, the Chicago Politicians 18. Ladies and gentlemen, you've just seen history."

"I feel good," Jim Foster says after the game. "I think they liked it." ★



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LAST OF THE 300-GAME WINNERS

**Kids today... honestly.
When it comes to pitching,
Father still knows best.**

By Sheldon Sunness

To the fans, the balmy Baltimore evening was an early, enjoyable hint of summer, but to Tom Seaver it was stifling, even oppressive. In trouble almost from the opening pitch, the 41-year-old White Sox pitcher found himself on the ropes in the third inning as Orioles slugger Eddie Murray stepped to the plate with the bases loaded.

But Seaver was far from beaten. Not only would he recover to defeat the younger, stronger man, he would punish him with his mind. With the count at 2-2, he fed the Orioles star three consecutive off-speed pitches away, the last barely clipping the outside corner and lulling Murray into a sleeping strikeout.

Like a recurring pitcher's nightmare, Murray came to bat again with the bases loaded in the fifth. And once again, in the middle of the count, Seaver delivered two soporific off-speed pitches. Murray dug his heels into the batter's box and glared at the outside corner, determined not to let recent history repeat. And so he, like the fans, was taken totally by surprise when Seaver unleashed a belt-high fastball that singed the inside corner and sawed the slugger's bat—and his spirit—in half.

Impressive? Certainly. But hardly an isolated case. Baseball is filled as never before with older pitchers like Tom Seaver, literally men among boys, who are still managing, somehow, to get kids out. This season began with more than three dozen pitchers in their mid-thirties or older on major league rosters.

And these numbers represent some of the most illustrious pitching names of the modern era: Seaver, Carlton, Sutton, Bly-



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Niekro the knuckler: At 47, he just won't float away.



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leven, Niekro, Niekro and John. Why do these aging artisans stay at it, what are the secrets of their longevity—and how long can they last? Where are their successors? Who will be the next Tom Seaver, the future 300-game winners? Is this just the finest, or also the last, generation of baseball's geriatric jocks?

WHY PLAY MORE?

All baseball players have a lot of green reasons to want to extend their careers. "The salaries today are almost obscene," smiles Yankee lefty Tommy John. "It beats writing books." It didn't always; "Back when I first broke in, about 20 years ago," recalls John, "a top-ranked pitcher might make \$18,000 to \$20,000, so there wasn't that much incentive to stay around the few extra years, because you could go out and sell used cars and make that much. Now, when you stay, not only do you add to your pension, but you're getting paid \$300,000 to \$500,000."

There are also more jobs to be had (and held) these days—since 1969, Major League Baseball has added six teams, a 30-percent increase. Expansion also means more young batters, vulnerable to the off-speed, breaking and trick pitches of aging, adapting pitchers. And they face more older hitters as well, ones whose bats have slowed as much as the hurlers' high hard ones.

And among the game's recent changes, few have been more significant than the emergence of the relief pitcher, not merely the flamethrowing closer, but also the middle reliever who provides three to four innings at a stretch. Exhausting complete games are on the wane, and new roles to which an aging pitcher might adapt are on the increase. "I tacked four or five years onto my career like that," explains Jim Kaat, who concluded his 25-year career in 1983.

But there's a gnawing suspicion among baseball people that the main reason so many roster spots are still occupied by the cane-and-wheelchair set is that they simply haven't been pushed out. The oldsters wouldn't be the Last Generation if the next generation wasn't such a Lost one. (It's too early to tell about the 25-and-under crowd, though it seems as

TWINS bert blyleven • pitcher



1971 A star is born. Less than a year in the minors, then Rookie Pitcher of the Year.

though Dwight Gooden may be hoarding a generation's worth of talent.) "There's a vast lack of pitching now," says Minnesota manager and longtime Baltimore pitching coach Ray Miller. "These young kids just aren't doing the job."

Former Yankee great and current NBC broadcaster Tony Kubek also sees a link missing. "I've noticed, and a lot of scouts have told me," he says, "that over the past 10 years or so, the speed of the major league fastball has fallen off about five miles per hour, from 88-89 to 84-85."

Who or what is to blame? Miller identifies a slew of factors, starting with the increased use of artificial turf and more grueling travel and scheduling requirements that place extra burdens on today's pitchers.

The athletes have changed as well. Coming from increasingly affluent backgrounds, "they have everything in the world and try to do everything rather than specializing," Miller says. More are drawn by the lure of football and basketball—"To most young athletes, baseball is becoming a secondary sport."

Medicine has brought changes to the game, not all of them beneficial. Specifically, Miller sees many young pitchers unnecessarily afraid to pitch through even the slightest pain. "We're too medical."

Perhaps the most significant change may be in our approach to the game.

Thanks in good part to marketing and media, fan awareness—and expectations—run high. The pennant race begins on opening day, not in mid-July. One sorry result of all this is that it's impossible to slip a young pitcher into the lineup, to allow him to pitch his way through mistakes. Before the rawest rookie uncorks his first pitch, every fan knows his life story. "The pressure is just too great," according to Miller.

Money may also be exerting opposite influences on the two generations. Recent astronomical increases in the size of paychecks, after the advent of free agency, fuels the older players' desire to remain in the game. But the young players, well-heeled after their first decade, may not be motivated to endure. Hence Miller's dire prediction: "You're seeing the last generation of 300-game winners."

MEANS TO NO END

But let's give credit where it's due. These aging athletes may have survived partly by default, but their successes didn't come by accident. You don't get in or near the 300 Club without hitting a very difficult exacta: pitching well and pitching long. How have they pulled it off?

Many hard throwers can help lengthen their careers by altering their delivery, switching from a gangling, herky-jerky

motion to a more fluid, compact delivery that diminishes wear and tear on the arm and shoulders. Some pitchers, like Tom Seaver, drop their leg further as they push off from the mound in order to add thrust from the lower body.

Most older pitchers benefit from improved control as the years wear on. "Control is mainly a mental thing," insists Jim Kaat. Confidence and concentration seem to improve with age and experience. Improved pitching mechanics also helps to improve control, as may the loss of velocity.

And pitchers have one big, clock-stopping advantage over their position-player counterparts. All of us tend to experience a sharp decline in our reflexes during our thirties. Losing the legs will probably defeat the speedy fielder or baserunner, while diminishing bat speed will finish most hitters. (Spray hitters can earn a temporary reprieve by choking up, though power hitters are virtually helpless.) Pitchers, however, have many opportunities to delay the inevitable.

"There are many adaptations a pitcher can make to compensate for loss of raw talent," explains Dr. Ron Taylor, the Toronto Blue Jays' team physician and a former major league pitcher. "He can vary speeds, change locations, learn more off-speed pitches and so on." This is the classic transition: from power pitcher to finesse pitcher, where the objective switches from destroying the hitter to destroying the hitter's timing. Perhaps the best recent example of a pitcher who made that switch is Yankee ace Ron Guidry. He's less overpowering now (earning about 60 percent of the strikeouts he registered in the late Seventies) but, by changing speeds, most notably adding a "dead-fish fastball," he has remained a highly effective hurler.

All pitchers have had to change somewhat, because the hitters have changed. At the plate, the Eighties have been marked by a series of refined techniques usually credited to the late batting instructor Charlie Lau, as well as to a phenomenon Tommy John terms the "Pete Rose syndrome"—the realization by many hitters that they can succeed, athletically and finan-



Just up from Richmond, "this hardworking righthander could be Atlanta's bullpen ace." 1967



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cially, by slapping at the ball for singles and doubles.

"Back when everyone was pulling, all you needed was a pretty good fastball and a reasonable breaking ball and you were safe," says Ray Miller. "That's no longer the case."

Even a master sinkerballer like Tommy John must adapt. "Nowadays if you throw the sinker away, they just reach down and hit it to the opposite field," he says. Consequently, "you have to pitch inside and tight more. That and vary your speeds even more than before."

Of course, not everyone can make wholesale alterations. "I go to war with less artillery now," says Don Sutton, "but the battle plan is still the same: throw strikes, move the ball around and keep the ball away from the hitter's strengths, his Happy Zone. That's the essence of pitching."

Off the field, athletes have paid greater attention to conditioning, diet, strength and flexibility in an effort to push back the boundaries of old age and retirement. "We've found that as people age their physical and athletic skills decline much less sharply than previously believed," ex-



1968 "The most exciting young pitcher ever to wear a Met uniform." At least until 1984.

plains Dr. Don Drinkwater, a coordinator of the Senior Athlete Study for the National Institute on Aging at Johns

Hopkins University. "And when those skills diminish it's more the result of a change of lifestyle than simple aging."

And there's more attention to innovative nuance. Some pitchers, like Tommy John, are concerned with "warming down," easing off from throwing. This practice, recently introduced into Japanese baseball, is similar to a weightlifter's "pyramiding" his sets. Its purpose is to reduce lactic acid, a waste or by-product of muscle contraction that causes muscle soreness, in the arm.

Spring training is also used more intelligently, as older athletes tend to work into playing shape gradually. "Don't rush in a week what it may take a month to do," advises veteran Braves trainer Dave Pursley. Again, not everyone goes with the new-wave flow. "It's hard for many of the older players," says Pursley. "They know it all. The guys in their upper thirties with the guaranteed contracts

HARD GLOSS



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figure, 'Don't change what got me here.' But just let one guy get hurt, then lots of guys start to listen."

NEVER LETTING GO

There's new life for some, but for many graybeard pitchers spring training means the beginning, and often the all-too-swift realization, of the end. Usually, his long-held job is being threatened by some fuzzi-faced rookie. "At that point you're a survivor," recalls Jim Kaat. "And you don't get nearly as many chances to fail." The media contribute to the problem by constantly slapping the player's age, the sports world's scarlet letter, in front of his name, as in "37-year-old Jim Kaat," or "43-year-old Tommy John."

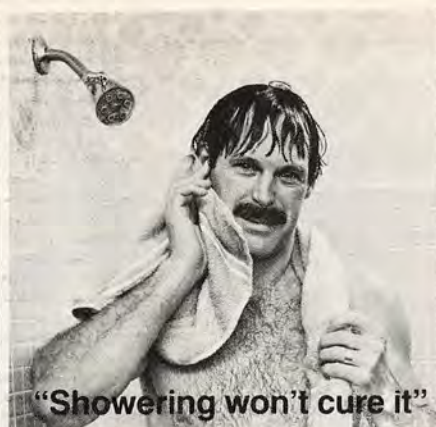
Often the oldsters are cut loose, but spring training is also a time to catch on. After a dismal season on the West Coast, "I realistically had no chance to make the Yankees this year," says Tommy John. As a result, he says, he arrived at spring training with a "relaxed, no-pressure attitude." As other pitchers fell from favor, John moved up the ladder. By the end of March he was a one-man taxi squad; a month and a half later he was promoted to the starting rotation. "When you're in your late thirties or older and have a bad season," says John, "you hope you have a friend who thinks you've still got something left." In this case, John's angel was Yankee GM Clyde King.

And there's another silver lining in the spring training cloud. Baseball's senior citizens frequently find themselves rejuvenated, the competitive juices flowing anew, as they fight for what Jim Kaat calls "the license to stay young."

"You become a rookie again, you have to prove yourself all over," Kaat remembers. "Every hitter, every out becomes much more important than when you're 22, every game is the most important you ever pitched. I took it as a challenge to continue to play and compete with guys maybe half my age."

And that's more than an observation from an aging pitcher; it's a mindset, maybe even a way of life for the entire Last Generation. Opportunity plus Nautilus plus guile don't necessarily equal Hall of Fame; the long-lived success of these great pitchers is due, as much as anything, to their fierce determination. "I still feel like I could walk out on the field and compete," says Kaat. "And I probably always will." ★

Sheldon Sunness is a writer in New York. This is his first feature for SPORT.



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SPORT QUIZ

Answers from page 93. 1—b. 2—Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, Frank Robinson and Harmon Killebrew. 3—Buffalo Bills, San Diego Chargers and Seattle Seahawks. 4—c. 5—Byron (Whizzer) White of Colorado (1937), Wilford White of Arizona State (1950) and Charles White of USC (1978-79). 6—c. 7—Raiders, 49ers and Packers. 8—a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4. 9—Montreal Canadiens, 1972-73. 10—b. 11—Nebraska and Arizona State.

12—Steve Carlton and Tom Seaver. *Answer to last month's Stumper* (Orel Hershisser of the Dodgers and Kirk McCaskill of the Angels have both played professional hockey. Another current major-leaguer is the nephew of Tony Leswick, the former Detroit Red Wing who was the last player to score a Stanley Cup winning goal in a seventh-game overtime period [1954]. Name the player): Len Dykstra of the New York Mets.

PICTURE CREDITS

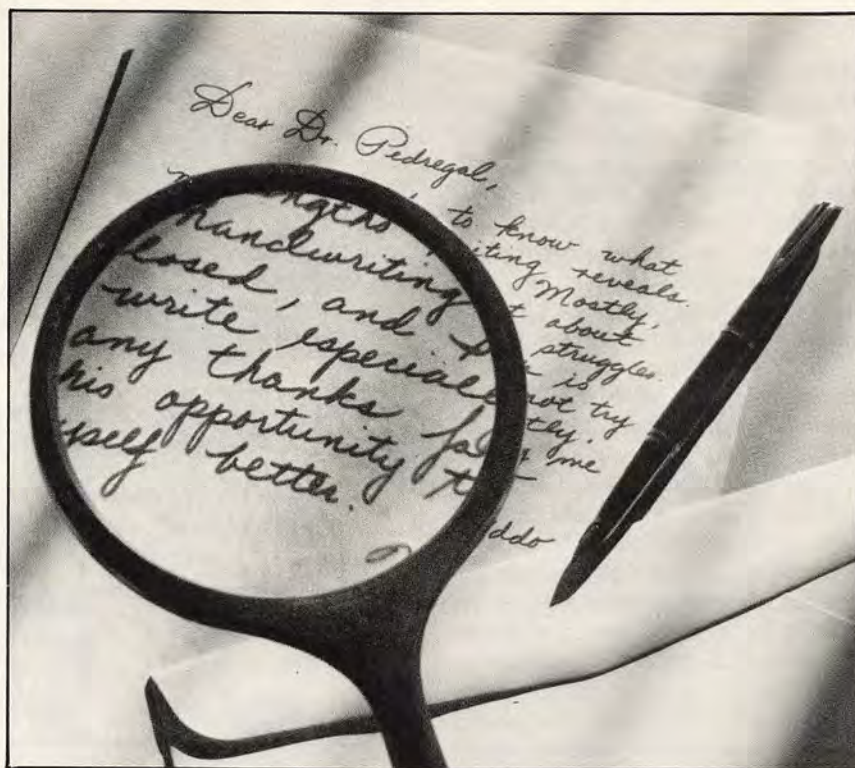
Page 5—Clockwise from top left: Focus on Sports, John McDonough, Michael Ponzini, Holly Stein/HBO, John McDonough. 11—Bryan Yablonsky (top left), Fred Vance/Golf World Magazine (center right), John McDonough (bottom right). 12—Sailer/McManus. 15—All-Sport/Michael King. 16—David Hiser/Aspen (top right), Phil Huber (bottom, 2). 20,21—John McDonough. 23—Damian Strohmeyer. 25—John McDonough. 26—Focus on Sports. 29—John McDonough. 30—Dave Black/Focus West. 33,37,43—John

McDonough. 46—Rich Pilling. 51—Rick Stewart/Focus West. 53—John McDonough. 54—Focus on Sports. 57,58—John McDonough. 60—John McDonough (2). 63—John Biever (top), John McDonough. 67—Courtesy of Arena Sports Ventures (2). 71—David Walberg (top), Michael Ponzini (center), Tom DiPace (bottom). 72,73,74—© Topps Chewing Gum, Inc. from "Baseball-Hobby Card Report." 80,81—Ben Weaver/Camera 5 (left), KO Magazine (right). 82—Holly Stein/HBO (2). 84—KO Magazine. 93—John McDonough (4).

That's Write!

*Want to find out
what makes you tick?
Just pick up a pen.*

By J. J. Leonard



I guess, I'm a skeptic at heart. I make it a point not to trust in things like graphology. So I never expected anything to come of having my handwriting analyzed. A few laughs, maybe. But certainly nothing revealing. Nothing of consequence.

I was wrong.

I recognized the truth of most of graphologist Dr. Carlos Pedregal's assertions right away. But, when he announced that I was very decisive but often not patient enough, I was sure that I'd caught him in a mistake.

It took me a week to accept the fact that, as much as I didn't want to believe it, signs of my impatience stood out like highway markers in both my professional and personal life. I'd simply chosen to ignore them. I had to confess, Dr. Pedregal knew me—or at least certain aspects of my personality—better than I knew myself.

Had I known more about the science of handwriting analysis at the time, I might not have been so surprised. Graphology operates on the same principle as, for example, the Rorschach psychological tests. In putting words on a piece of paper or in interpreting inkblots, a person projects his unconscious personality. The physiological and neurological impulses that shape our handwriting and reveal our personalities are reflected in everything from the choice of writing implement and pressure applied to the page, to the slant of the letters and our signature.

In all, a graphologist examines over 300 aspects of a person's script. The result?

"Your handwriting will tell an expert things that your best friend or mate wouldn't know after a full 10 years," says Dr. Pedregal. Not surprisingly, a graphologist can actually provide new insights into yourself, your relationships and your life, by simply scrutinizing your scrawl.

Take Mike and Susan (not their real names) as an example. For the most part, husband and wife were pleased with the results of their handwriting analysis. Each, however, adamantly disagreed with one of the characteristics listed in their respective analyses. Mike's handwriting had revealed that he placed too much importance on himself and his family. His attitude: "The rest of the world can die so long as we're okay." His wife, however, felt that the analysis was right on target.

Susan's point of contention was about a characteristic in direct opposition to the quality Mike had argued about. Her script showed a tendency to put other people's needs first, before her own or her family's, something which Mike had accused her of time and time again.

The conflicting reactions sparked numerous discussions between the two. Finally, Mike and Susan realized that they—and not the graphologist—were mistaken. Their opposing personality traits had blinded them to each other and fueled their conflict. That awareness allowed them to look at the situation from a new angle and put it in perspective.

Graphology can also reveal character traits that people who've been close to each

other most of their lives aren't aware of. For years, one 65-year-old Canadian had felt that his five children didn't know who he really was. When he received his handwriting analysis, he felt it was so accurate that he ended up mailing a copy to each of his now-adult kids. "For the first time, I felt that somebody understood me," he explained.

Graphology can even shed light on "real life" mysteries. The adoptive mother of a 15-month-old foundling wrote Dr. Pedregal asking for help. "All my baby has of her natural mother is the note she was found with. Could you please see what you can discover about the woman who left her from the note? I would like to be able to tell my daughter something about her mother when she is old enough to question her abandonment."

What Does Your Writing Say About You?

This is your chance to find out what your handwriting reveals. Though most experts charge \$100 or more, Dr. Pedregal has agreed to make the following offer to the readers of the *SPORT Magazine*. For only \$12, your handwriting sample will be analyzed by this internationally renowned psychologist/graphologist and his staff. You will learn which characteristics surface in your handwriting and you will receive a comprehensive printed explanation of their conclusions. To take advantage of this offer, simply follow the instructions on the next page. Anyone over sixteen may participate.

The note was very short, written on a corner of what looked like a brown paper shopping bag. Though there was not enough written material to be able to do a comprehensive analysis, Dr. Pedregal was able to learn a lot about the child's real mother. And, while the analysis may not have turned up the specific woman who left her baby on the church steps, it satisfied the child's new mother. "Thank you," she wrote Dr. Pedregal. "You've added substance to the shadow of the person who gave us such a wonderful gift."

Occasionally a graphologist can actually foresee the future when examining a person's handwriting. One young couple who'd recently become engaged was told that their marriage would not last more than six months. They married in spite of the graphologist's warning. Five months later they separated. What the expert had concluded, based on two handwriting samples,

turned out to be all too true.

These examples may astound you, but they shouldn't. After all, "brainwriting" is what graphologists call handwriting, and they should know.

Get the Write Idea

To find out what your writing reveals about your personality, just follow these easy directions.

- Copy the letter on the right, designed to provide Dr. Pedregal with the sample he needs for the analysis. Use an ink or ball-point pen and write in the blank space at the bottom of the page. (You can also use a sheet of unlined writing paper . . . just make sure to attach all the necessary information that's been requested.) And remember, don't try to write neatly. Just relax and write the way you usually do, and then sign your name.

- Be sure to complete the order form below. If you are sending more than one sample, include payment and an order form for each.

- Send the entire page or clip along dotted line and send order form and sample with a check or money order for \$12 to:

GRAPHOLOGY OFFER, P.O. Box 16008,
230 Adams Ave., Hauppauge, NY 11788.
Orders must be post-marked by
October 15, 1986.

Dear Dr. Pedregal:

I'd like to know what my regular handwriting reveals about my personality. Mostly, I'd like to find out about my strengths and my struggles. My handwriting sample is enclosed, and I did not try to write especially neatly. Many thanks for giving me this opportunity to know myself better.

(Signature)

Don't forget your signature! If you use two different signatures, please include both.

I want to have my handwriting analyzed. Here is my check or money order payable to:
GRAPHOLOGY OFFER. Enclosed are _____
writing sample(s) at \$12 each,
for a total of \$_____

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(Please print information in block letters)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

AGE _____ SEX (M or F) _____ Right- or left-handed (R or L) _____

BE SURE TO SEND SAMPLE AND ORDER FORM

IS THERE A RABBIT

HOME RUN TOTALS ARE UP. AND THE
UNLIKELIEST PEOPLE ARE HITTING THEM.
EVERYBODY HAS HIS EYE ON THE
BALL. WE DECIDED TO HAVE A LOOK INSIDE.

• BY PAUL FICHTENBAUM

By now you've heard all the talk. The baseball, the 1986 version, is livelier. Over the first month of the season there was an average of 1.8 home runs hit per game, compared to 1.1 per game in '85. By the end of May, Wally Joyner, the California Angels' rookie first baseman, led the majors in home runs with 16. During his minor league career, he averaged fewer than 10 *per season*. Kirby Puckett, the Minnesota Twins centerfielder, entered the season with four homers in 1,248 major league at-bats. He belted 15 round trippers in his first 198 at-bats in '86.

"I see these balls hit and I say, 'There's something wrong here,'" says Milwaukee Brewers manager George Bamberger. "I definitely think the ball is souped up."

"You get used to the ball doing predictable things," says Mets broadcaster Tim McCarver, "but when I see Len Dykstra [the Mets' 5-10 centerfielder] hitting for power the other way as a left-handed hitter, it opens my eyes."

It also opened our eyes. We thought someone really ought to look inside the ball. So we did.

First the facts. A baseball must weigh between 5 and 5½ ounces and have a circumference between 9 and 9¼ inches, according to the specifications defined by Major League Baseball. Inside, there is a cushioned cork center called the pill, a cork sphere surrounded by a single layer of black rubber and a single layer of red rubber. The rubber in each is exactly the same, with the different colors creating two distinct layers of equal thickness. The pill is surrounded by three layers of woolen yarn and one layer of poly-cotton yarn (this last layer is the only part of the ball that is synthetic). Following each winding during production, the ball is measured for weight and circumference. A cement coating is applied, and then a cowhide cover is sewn into place with 108 stitches of red cotton thread. The cowhide leather is taken from the "heart," or middle back, of the cow's hide, valued for its uniform characteristics of color and texture. Finally, the seams are rolled or pressed for about a minute, flattening them to major league specifications.

Rawlings produces its major league baseballs at a plant in Haiti, employing close to 1,000 workers year round, 600 of whom are in the sewing room. Sitting on metal and wooden chairs, the mostly women sewers work behind viselike stands that grip the baseballs while the workers sew the stitches with two needles. Tiny metal staples that hold the dampened cover in place are removed as the stitches are made. Inspectors put

the balls through a metal detector to be sure no staples remain.

The finished balls are stacked on tables into 50-dozen pyramids where they're inspected for further defects.

Major League Baseball requires Rawlings, the sole manufacturer of American and National League balls, to determine the "co-efficient of restitution," or liveliness, of the baseball. In the test, a machine shoots the ball at a speed of 85 feet per second (approximately 60 mph) against a post constructed of northern white ash. (Sound familiar? Most bats are made of the same wood.) The resiliency of the ball is measured by the ratio of its rebound velocity to its impact velocity. Major league specs require that the ball rebound between two points within .514 and .578 seconds. The range of tolerance in the tests, as well as the specifications, allows for the individuality of each baseball.

The speculation about livelier balls is especially interesting because baseballs have been constructed in virtually the same way since 1910, when the first cork center was introduced. The only authorized change since 1931 has been the switch from horsehide covers to cowhide, which, incidentally, brought about a difference in odor and color. Horsehide tends to have more oil and is more yellow in color. Of all the ball's components, however, the cover has the least effect on liveliness. (You can thank the Schottzie's of the world for the change to cowhide. In the past, dogs dined mainly on horse meat, making horsehides readily available at a cheap price. When dogs changed their diet to beef, horsehides became scarce, thus the switch to cowhide.)

Home runs were at a premium during the so-called dead-ball era. From 1900 to 1919, it was not unusual for an entire team to hit fewer than 15 home runs. Before the cork center was introduced, balls were noted for their lack of uniformity. Some even consisted totally of yarn, and occasionally the same ball was kept in play for an entire game. (Imagine baseball played with a rolled up sock.) One New York firm, in order to appeal to a good fielding team, even advertised that "our professional dead balls are made of all yarn, without rubber and are the deadest balls made."

With the introduction of the cork center, the spitball and other freak pitches were developed to offset the new "lively ball." The major leagues outlawed the spitball in 1920, except for the 17 recognized spitball pitchers who were allowed to finish their careers with their specialty.

Although there have been only two authorized changes in the ball over the last 55 years (first from the cork center to a cushioned cork center in 1931, and in 1974 the change from the horsehide to cowhide cover), it would be easy to tamper



IN THE '86 BALL?



THE PILL— The center of a baseball consists of a compressed cork sphere surrounded by one black and one red layer of rubber. The pill is the main source of energy for the ball.

WINDINGS— Four layers of yarn make up most of the ball. The first three windings are 85 percent wool and 15 percent other fibers, while the white cotton fourth winding is a poly-cotton blend. The tighter the wind, the farther the ball will travel.

THE COVER— There are actually two covers, both in the shape of a figure eight, of the highest grade full-grain cowhide leather with uniform texture and color. The covers have the least effect on the liveliness of the ball.

THE STITCHES— A baseball has 108 red stitches, all hand sewn and pressed by a rolling machine. The higher the stitches, the more drag on the ball.

with a baseball; a slight alteration could affect its liveliness.

"The easiest and quickest way to liven the ball is to wrap it tighter," says John Fiscina, a research and development manager for MacGregor Sporting Goods, which manufactures baseballs for every minor league. "When you wrap it tighter the ball would have more energy and it would go farther." In looser wrappings, the "energy would be lost."

Another way to "juice up" a ball would be to flatten the seams even more. "Flatter seams make the ball more aerodynamic," Fiscina explains. "High seams cause drag on the ball."

So what's the answer? Is the baseball being used in the major leagues in 1986 livelier than its predecessors? We've weighed, measured and probed and this is what we found.

- The 1986 ball meets all the major league specifications for composition and performance.
- In independent tests of the coefficient of restitution by the Worth Sports Company over the last few years, the Rawlings ball has consistently measured as the deadest of all, including those supplied to the minor leagues and colleges. At our request, Worth tested the 1986 Rawlings baseball and the results showed all the balls had a COR between .549 and .559, well within the official specs (although their testing procedures don't exactly conform to those required by Major League Baseball).

- The ball that Dwight Gooden fires toward home plate in August is not necessarily from a fresh 1986 supply. It may very well be last year's ball or even one produced while Gooden was striking out batters at Hillsborough High School in 1982.

Rawlings ships boxes of baseballs to each team periodically, which they store and use as needed. Often, a given team's stock includes balls from different shipments produced at different times. "The teams could be using balls that are two or three years old," says Rawlings' director of manufacturing, Richard Solon. "It's possible that teams are using old stock."

- Rawlings' competitors, who could prosper from a scandal over secret changes or mismanagement, dismiss the talk of a livelier ball.

"We heard that as well," says Jacques Hetrick of Spalding, speaking of his company's experience when it supplied baseballs, before Rawlings. "The ball isn't any livelier now."

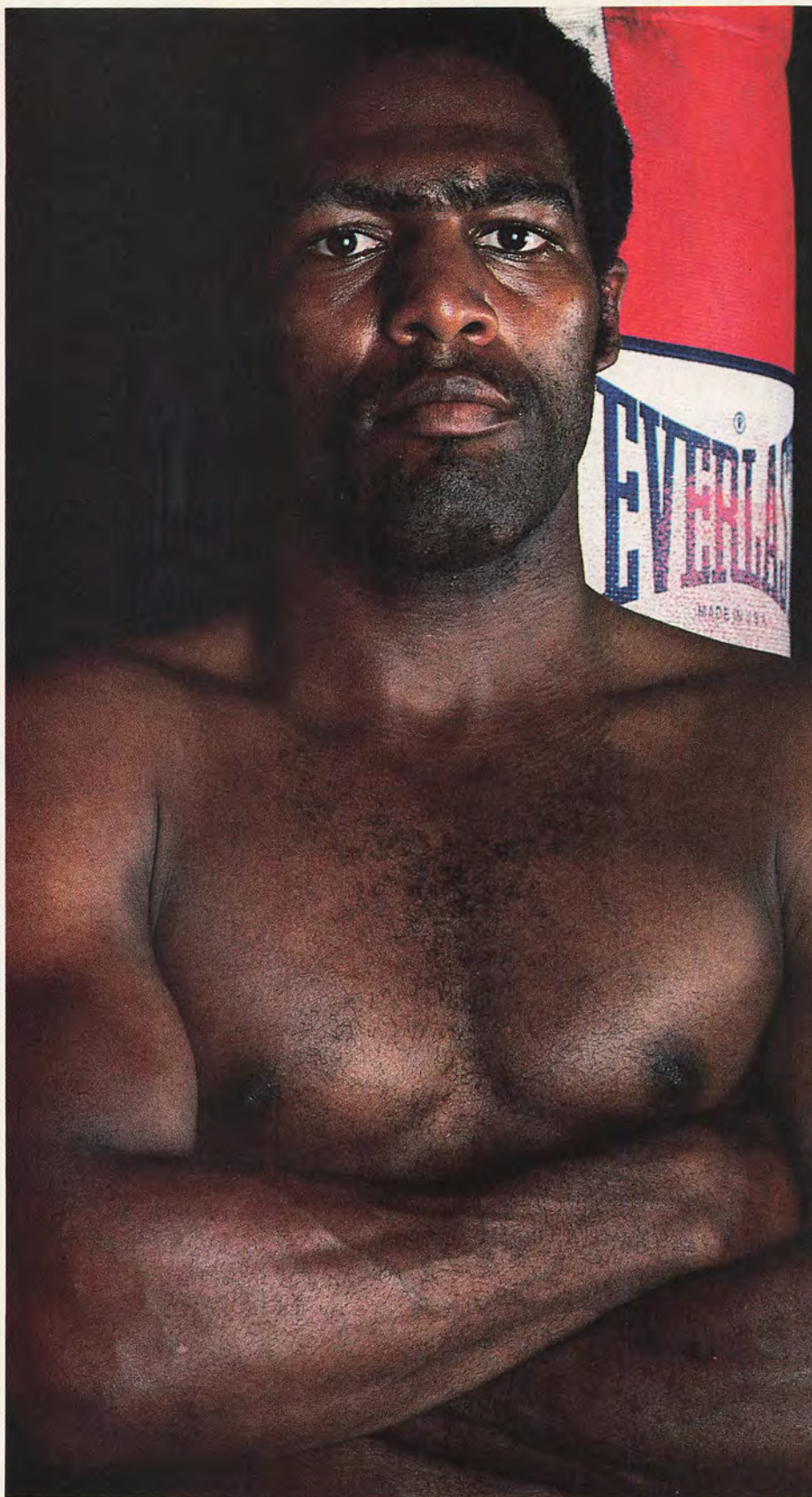
MLB conducts its own tests periodically to monitor the baseball. "They commissioned an independent test in 1977, the first year we made the balls," Solon recalls. "They had two or three professors from the University of Missouri as well as Dick Butler [former supervisor of American League umpires] run some tests. The same guys ran some tests last year when the contract was up. We got a 10-year extension and the major leagues haven't told us the ball is different."

Between 35,000 and 60,000 dozen baseballs are put in play during an average season. The average life is about five minutes. That may be getting shorter in 1986, but it's not due to a new live-ball era. More likely, it's due to the live bats of guys like Jose Canseco, Wally Joyner, Pete Incaviglia and Kirby Puckett.

THE DARK SIDE OF DONALD CURRY

Inside the cool
welterweight champ
burns the same
rage that almost
devoured his
brother, Bruce. He
knows he must control
it—or else.

by Calvin Fussman



Two roads taken: For Donald (right) the slow road
has meant a title and a million dollars.
Bruce's fast track bought a title and time in a sanitarium.

came here to...uhhhhh...to...uhhhhh...talk about drugs. Because I know it's...uhhhhh...a big thing around here. Just like where I come from."

Donald Curry came to Brooklyn Junior High School 275, with security guards at the door, without a speech prepared. Now he's struggling to gain control, television lights in his face, a couple hundred hormone-raging eighth-graders out there in the auditorium darkness.

"Uhhhhh...maybe some of you have seen me on television. But...uhhhhhh...every time you watch me fight on television you should...uhhhhhh...think about getting an education."

It starts—as it always does in junior high—somewhere in the back. *Uhhhhh*. Every time Curry pauses to choose his words, the students mimic him.

"Because...uhhhhhh..."



"Uhhhhh."

"...not everyone is going to get a chance to...uhhhhhh..."

"Uhhhhh."

"...make it in sports."

Now half the auditorium is either mimicking or laughing and the principal and Board of Education members are starting to squirm. Should they emasculate the welterweight champion of the world by coming to his defense, or silently allow the humiliation to grow?

"The thing about...uhhhhhh..."

"Uhhhhh."

Curry stops.

"I'd like to know what's so funny."

One hundred voices respond gleefully: "Uhhhhh."

"I came here from Fort Worth, Texas, to speak to you about something I care about," he lashes out. "If you don't want to listen you can get up and leave."

The audience is completely quiet. A Board of Education member releases a pent-up breath.

Curry finishes his speech and gets a standing ovation.



Donald Curry is the undisputed welterweight champion and the best fighter in the world—and will be as long as he wants. He's not going to say a word, take a fight or throw a punch until he is certain he is in absolute control.

No athlete flirts with chaos as often as a boxer. It is the one sport where wildness can be an advantage. How many titles have been won by the inferno of rage?

We are now in the era of the big payday. In one bonanza, the stomach can be filled, the ego sated. Once the pilot light is extinguished, the fighter is too.

Donald Curry's pilot light is altogether different. His hunger is not so much for money or ego, but to bring order to his world. Every day when he awakes, chaos hammers on his door. He balls his hands into fists and answers it.



Four days after Bruce Curry lost his WBC super lightweight title in a brutal beating at the fists of Billy Costello in 1984, Donald Curry's older brother stormed into a Las Vegas gym to see his trainer, Jesse Reid. He thought he'd been cheated out of \$10,000 of his purse.

"I ain't no Mexican fighter. You can't tell me lies and get away with it. Try to steal money from me and I'll kick yo' ass. For five minutes I was kickin' his ass and then he hit me in my stitches. The ones on my forehead from the head butt. It reopened the cut. I knew he was gonna do that—that's why I brought my gun. I went to the car and got the gun and tried to shoot through the openin' in the door. He was only three feet away, but the blood was runnin' over my eyes and I couldn't see—that's why I missed."

You wanted to kill him?

"He stole my money."

But you could have gone to jail.

"I wasn't gonna be in jail. The po-lice would have to shoot me. I'd rather die out here. You know what happens in jail. Shit, shoot me now."

Seven months later, Bruce was judged not guilty of attempted murder by reason of insanity and committed to the Lakes Crossing Center for the Mentally Disordered Offender.



Donald Curry grew up a bedroom away from his brother Bruce in Fort Worth, Texas. Always watching. Never talking. Always

watching. When life was sweet and the left was landing, Bruce Curry could be the happy-go-luckiest guy in the world. But every time he felt threatened, he lost control. Six kids and a number of fathers. Maybe that had something to do with it.

"How'd I start fightin'? Playin' basketball up at Morningside Middle School. Got a rebound and a guy started to take it away and we got into a fist fight. Someone said, 'Better watch it. He's a boxer.' I said, 'That don't mean he can whup me.' I kicked his ass. The kid's boxing coach came by 10 minutes later. I asked if I could box. Then I brought Don. I was 14, he was eight."

"Started winnin' the Golden Gloves. Fought Sugar Ray Leonard in the Olympic trials. On ABC-TV, Howard Cosell sayin', 'Curry's got Leonard on the ropes.' After the fight, his wife came up and kissed me. She knew I won."

"They gave me another chance at the box-offs, but I had to beat Leonard twice in a row to get to the Olympics. Aaron Pryor was my roommate. He lost to Howard

Davis. I said, 'They already cheated us once. You think they're gonna give us the decision this time?' So we partied, had girls in the room the night before the fight."

Bruce, people train their entire lives for the Olympics. You spent the night before your biggest fight partying?

"Live it up, man. At least we got some sleep. You shoulda seen Leon [Spinks]."

"I came back home and they wouldn't give me a job anywhere in the community. I said, 'I can't eat my trophies. I gotta turn pro.' Flew to California. They said I was tougher than nickel hamburger."



Donald Curry was the type of guy of whom, when you leaf through your high school yearbook five years later, you ask, "Was he in our class?" People knew his reputation—more than 400 amateur fights with only four losses—but they didn't know him. Only his younger sister Angie understood him and knew the path that led from his silence to his smile.

Donald didn't seek attention, and attention didn't seek him. He might have been the Sugar Ray Leonard of the 1980 Moscow Olympics if not for the American boycott. He saw the money flowing from his brother's new career. He saw the anarchy too. Bruce fought too often, got hit too often and had too many managers. Only nine days before his most important fight, a rematch with three-time champion Wilfred Benitez, Bruce fought in Japan. Sluggish after the 15-hour flight, he couldn't cope with Benitez's left jab and lost a decision.

In 1980, Bruce and Donald visited the home of Billy Baxter, a notorious gambler, in Las Vegas. After dinner came dessert: an offer for the brothers to link arms as professionals. The gambler thought Donald's 18-year-old eyes would roll

oranges, limes and cherries. But the 18-year-old eyes didn't even blink. Donald did not think of the thousands that were offered, but of single dollar bills. For 10 years he'd been together with his trainer, Paul Reyes, who had always given him a dollar or two when he needed it as a boy. Reyes worked on an automotive assembly line. Could he uproot his family and move to Vegas? What if Donald's career didn't pan out? Could Paul get his job back? Donald decided not to sign a pact with anarchy.

He felt more secure with someone he knew. He signed with Dave Gorman, owner of a small construction company, who had sponsored Curry's amateur team. Gorman wasn't a gambler, nor a man to make a quick decision.

"Be honest with you, Billy Baxter treated me all right. Gave me cars—a car-load of cars. Filled me up with money. Had me in a limousine everywhere I fought. Ate at the best restaurants. Stayed at the best hotels. I kicked ass from Tokyo to Monte Carlo. Everywhere I went people said I had a pleasin' style. Made \$800,000 in my career."

Where did it go?

"I don't know. Malls?"

"Fought my ass off for him. Got my title shot against Leroy Haley and had to win the last two rounds. Reached down into my gusto and pulled it out. Bruce Curry—Junior Welterweight Champ of the World!"

"Then I had that one bad fight against Costello. Reason I lost, I weighed 158 a week before the fight."

That's 18 pounds over the limit. How did you put on all that weight?

"Good eatin', man."

How did you take it off?

"Ex-Lax. Bought seven packs. Ate a pack a day."



Donald Curry had the runs too—in the ring. If he moved quick enough, he wouldn't get hit, he wouldn't feel threatened, he wouldn't lose control. His handlers called him an artist, but fight fans don't visit museums.

Sugar Ray Leonard's Pepsodent Smile seduced people. Aaron Pryor's Vegemetic style ignited them. Marvin Hagler shaved his head. Hector (Macho) Camacho hid his in a \$10,000 diamond-studded robe. Donald Curry, on the other hand, had all the appeal of a Russian chessmaster. Fans paid \$40 for a closed-circuit look at men dancing with danger. Donald Curry was a wallflower.

Have you ever lost control in the ring?



■ Despite taunts from his opponent's camp, Curry dissected McCrory and, with a punishing right, became the undisputed welterweight champion.



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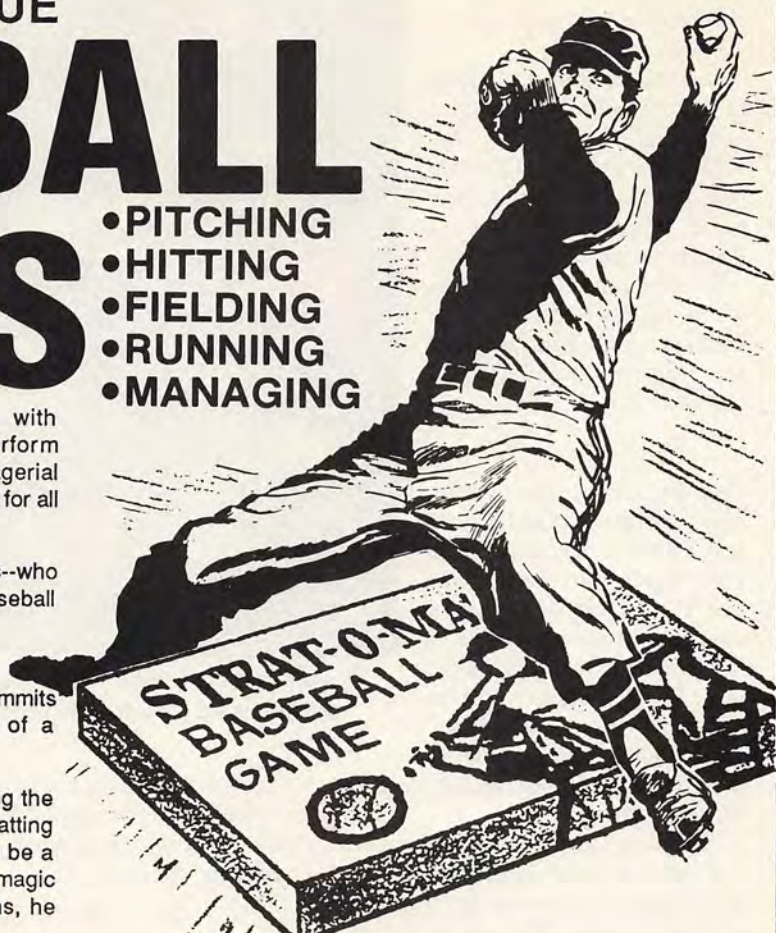
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In pitching, Cincinnati's Mario Soto will display fair control, possess strong stamina, be difficult to hit for both lefty and righty batters, but will yield more "gopher balls" than most National League pitchers. In fact, Soto's "gopher ball" problems will be much more obvious when he pitches in Chicago's Wrigley Field than at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium.

In fielding, Gary Pettis will make catches which other outfielders would fail to make. Ozzie Smith will make fewer errors and take away more would-be base hits than other shortstops. In base running and stealing, also, all players will perform realistically.



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"No."

Have you ever been hurt?

"No."

Can you envision a situation in the ring where you are out of control?

"I had more than 400 amateur fights. I've seen all the styles. When the fight starts, I find the recipe to gain control."

When Leonard vacated his world welterweight throne in 1982, the palace lights dimmed and no one noticed Donald Curry sit down.



One day, on the way to meet some friends, Donald Curry saw a motorcycle tumble at a Fort Worth intersection. He saw the driver get up and thought everything was fine. A few minutes later he learned his sister Angie had been riding on the back without a helmet. Donald rode in the ambulance to the hospital with her and watched her life leak away.

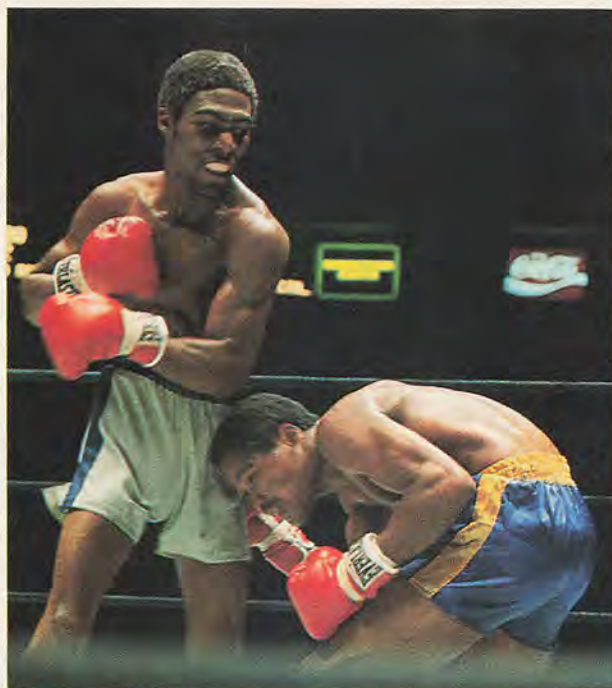
"I couldn't stand to see her lying in bed—all those tubes coming out of her—without being able to do anything about it," Donald says. "With all the money I made I couldn't bring her back."

"It was the most horrible thing I've ever experienced. I was so out of control of myself. It was crazy. I laid in my bed for two or three weeks. I couldn't eat. I lost a lot of weight. It was like being paralyzed. I would go to sleep and wake up with tears in my eyes. I wasn't living at home at the time and I felt that if I'd been home it never would have happened."

"Bruce was the type that wanted revenge. With me, if there was any revenge I thought God or the law would take care of it. Bruce is not violent. But when he gets mad, he loses control."

His oldest sister had died at 28 from a terminal illness, and another was now dead at 18 from a careless mistake. With his brother about to enter a mental institution because he couldn't master his rage, Donald Curry's life was becoming one long lesson on the horror of losing control.

"I had my gun next time I saw Vic [who was driving the motorcycle when Angie was killed]. Three-fifty-seven Magnum. I was just lucky enough not to shoot him when I saw him. I'd have killed him if I didn't have to go on trial for shooting at Jesse. See, God works in mysterious ways."



■ Bruce on his comeback: "I'm gonna make two million and then retire. Shouldn't take more than a year."

I think you better hold your temper. *"I got self-control now. I learned from all that. The institution learned me that. They taught me the law."*



Donald was learning that there were certain things he couldn't control; it made him get a tighter grip on those that he could. He moved into the \$300,000 home he bought for his mother, and he started to look after the family. Angie's son Pool was enrolled in a preschool and inculcated with career direction. "What are you gonna be when you grow up?" Donald would ask the three-year-old. "A doctor," Pool would jubilantly respond.

Donald continued his correspondence course in broadcasting to improve his speech. When he found out what his purse would be for a fight, he divided it by 62 percent (his manager gets 28 percent, his trainer 10 percent) to make sure of his cut and then checked up on his investments. He ate lunches with older athletes in the area—Bump Wills, shortstop/ securities broker, and Ray Burris, pitcher/owner of a promotions company—to learn about running a business. He replaced the DCURRY license plates on his Mercedes with numbered plates. When Bruce was released from the institution and started training for a comeback, Donald told his brother to stay retired. When his girlfriend, an airline stewardess, spoke of how turbulence frightened her, he asked her to leave her job. He

made sure she didn't wear jewelry to the Super Bowl in New Orleans this year, because he had heard that thieves were ripping it off people's wrists and fingers.

The mention of the word *drugs* made his back teeth grind. He'd never used any, but in his mind the word was a synonym for out of control. Once a street dealer in Vegas who didn't recognize him asked, "Want to buy some coke?" "Want to buy a fist?" Curry countered. He told himself to keep improving his speech so he could warn junior high school kids about things that made you lose control.

As he grew more confident in the ring, he learned he didn't need to run in order to control. When Roger Stafford entered the ring against him in 1983, Curry noticed no perspiration on the challenger's body. He's cold, Don calculated. It's okay

to let go. Five seconds into the fight, Stafford was on his back.

You could control by watching, assimilating details and attacking. Before, he could outbox the boxers. Now his defensive reflexes were honed so well that he could outslug the sluggers—and not pay his brother's price.

"I'm gonna make two million and then retire."

How long will it take you?

"Shouldn't take more than a year. Look at Marvin Hagler. What's he? Thirty-four. What's he made, 15 million? I can probably make five. I've gotten smarter and better. When my new manager says, 'Bruce, you're fighting so-and-so,' I'm gonna say, 'How much am I gonna make? How much percentage of the gate?' Before I take any fight, I want my money in advance. This time, I'm gonna save it. To tell you the truth, my life's just begun in boxing."

The walls of his room are covered with photographs of singers—Sade, Chaka Khan, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder—and posters from the movie *Rocky IV*. Bruce Curry's WBC championship belt is hidden on a shelf under a pile of celebrity magazines with headlines like: DIAHANN CARROLL TALKS ABOUT HER LIFE, LOVER AND CAREER IN A REVEALING INTERVIEW.

You see *Rocky IV*?

"Seen 'em all."

You like his wife, Brigitte Nielsen?

"She's his wife?"

In real life.

"I thought Adrian was his wife."



Celebrity could make you lose control. And that's where Donald was heading as he prepared to fight Milton McCrory for the undisputed world welterweight title last December. Both were undefeated. The winner would be en route to earning acclaim and millions of dollars.

When a member of Detroit's Kronk Gym fights for a championship, the rest of the gym attends for support. McCrory's men walked around Las Vegas a few days before the fight, wearing red jackets, trying to shake Donald's sense of control. During press conferences, they recalled the way he once ran and they challenged his heart. Some questioned his sexual preference and a woman's wig was tossed at him. When his trainer, a Mexican-American, started to talk, one of the red jackets yelled, "Speak English."

All of the rage in Bruce's blood was now channeled through Donald's eyes. When he entered the ring, McCrory was dancing and smiling—the sign of a man with trembling confidence. Thirty seconds after the bell, the fight was Curry's. He stood in the center of the ring, his punches dictating McCrory's movement. A left hook turned McCrory's legs into licorice whips.

In the second round a precise left hook put McCrory down. McCrory was up, blinking, at the count of nine. His gloves were barely at his chin when Donald, searing with the rage of his blood, leaped in with a right hook.

After the fight people started to talk about Donald Curry winning three titles. Maybe he was better than Sugar Ray Leonard. Old-time champ Jake La Motta called him the next Sugar Ray Robinson. How much would he make in a fight with Hagler? Who would win?

Everyone wanted to hug Donald Curry, to shake his hand, to be his friend. Donald untangled himself from the congratulatory flesh, locked himself in his hotel bathroom and looked into the mirror. "You did a great job," he told his reflection. "You're on top of the world. No, you're in space. Come back to earth now. Keep everything in perspective. Don't lose your idea of who you are. Stay in control. Don't let this change you. Stay in control?"

Then he screamed. ★

Calvin Fussman profiled St. Louis Blues owner Harry Ornest, in January SPORT.

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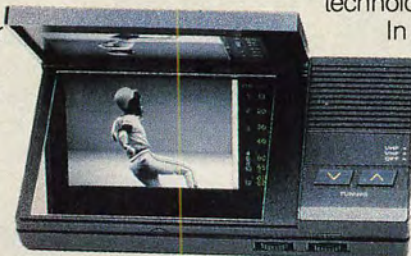
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WIRED

THE GOODWILL GAMES: A TV DISASTER?



While Ted Turner's cable-TV networks, WTBS and CNN, have been promoting the Goodwill Games to be held in Moscow (July 5-20),

TBS executives have been worrying about negotiations with the Russians over how to approach TV coverage. TBS is concerned that the 129-hour telecast could turn out to be, by American TV standards, a joke; the Russians have forced them into concessions that will make it difficult to provide a quality broadcast.

Soviet TV officials don't want any ugliness to spoil the planet's view of their Olympic sports facilities or of their athletes. So although Ted Turner came up with the idea for the Goodwill Games, and paid \$8.9 million in rights fees, the Soviets haven't allowed him anything like complete freedom of coverage.

More than 50 percent of the televised pictures you will watch at home of the 3,500 athletes competing in 18 different sports will be provided by Soviet cameramen. TBS will retain editing control but it will have to make do with just 11 cameras of its own. The USSR will have 130.

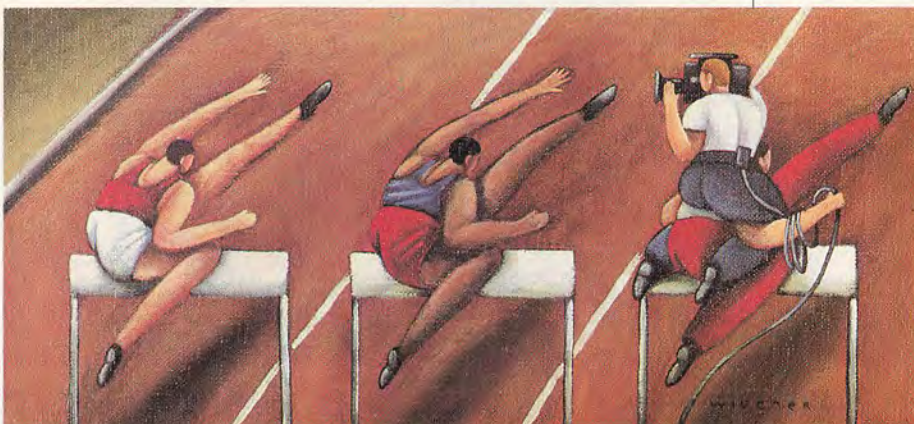
At the track and field events, the Soviets will allow TBS only three cameras; the Big Red Machine will have 23. What's more, the Russians' camera work is pretty wooden and repetitive, according to Ken Fouts, the coordinating producer of the Goodwill Games. The Soviets rarely isolate on individuals or show athletes on sidelines, and they have typewriter-style graphics last seen in this country in the Fifties.

"The Soviet sports coverage isn't done with a lot of feeling—just winners and losers," complains Fouts, who also was a director at the Los Angeles Olympics for ABC. "We'll cover more of the emotional story."

Coverage will vary from event to event, but to give you an idea of how the Soviets and TBS will share responsibility, here is exactly how a race will be covered. The shot of runners getting in the starting blocks will come

from a TBS hand-held camera. The Russians will shoot the race itself, supplying a feed with a superimposed time clock, and they will handle the replays. TBS will use its second camera to isolate on one American and its third camera for a postrace interview.

The Americans will edit it all together in a brand new production center, built by the Soviets expressly for the games. TBS convinced the Russians to buy \$6 million worth of TV graphics and editing equipment and to convert an unused TV studio into an American-style production center.



(The studio once housed *C'mon Lads*, a Soviet game show in which teenagers would compete in events such as riding on a motorcycle while popping balloons with a pellet gun. First prize: a travel voucher to Czechoslovakia.)

The Soviets were prevented, however, from buying three pieces of American-made Ampex equipment, which handles special effects and graphics, because the equipment was included in the trade embargo established by President Carter when he canceled U.S. involvement in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. The State Department argued—lame, according to TBS—that one piece could be converted to a flight simulator. TBS signed an agreement stating it could bring in the equipment but not demonstrate its use to the Soviets and that TBS must take it back home after the games.

From a technical point of view, transporting the picture from Moscow to Des Moines will be an incredible feat. As of late April, Fouts didn't know if TBS' method would work—even theoretically. The signal will travel 150,000 miles, bounce off four satellites, and, at various points in the trip, be translated into all three of the major types of TV signals used around

the world (the Soviets and French use SECAM, most of Europe employs PAL, and the U.S. and Canada use NTSC), all in less than half a second.

The track and field signal, recorded in SECAM, will leave Lenin Central Stadium and move by microwave to the TBS control center in Moscow. There, it will be converted to PAL, which is better suited to special effects.

From a bank of monitors, Fouts will choose his shots—melding together the American and Soviet camerawork—and overlay his computer graphics. The signal will be uplinked off one

satellite and sent to Etam, West Virginia. From there, it will be sent up again and bounced to Atlanta, where it will be converted to the NTSC signal and beamed up once more before it finds your TV set.

"It's an engineer's nightmare," says Fouts. With all the chances for snafus, don't be surprised if you wind up with a couple of Soviet farm reports mixed in.

—Richard Zacks

FAST TRACK

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR BOOKIE



The question before the house: With the football season nearly upon us, what is the correct manner in which those of us living on the wrong side of the Nevada state line can locate, cultivate and retain the services of a decent bookmaker?

First, a caveat: Forget the fact that 9 out of 10 bookmakers are connected

At the track and field events, the Soviets will allow TBS only three cameras; the Big Red Machine will have 23.



ILLUSTRATION BY TERRY WIDENER

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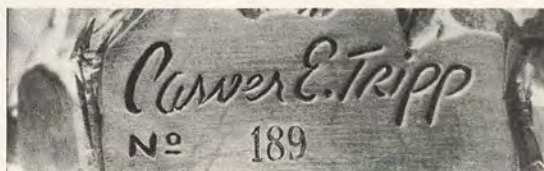
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to an organization that imports most of the heroin to the United States and has a greasy hand in everything from white slavery to crooked politicians. After all, Jefferson kept slaves, Roosevelt dined with Stalin and 49 states voted for Richard Nixon.

That moral qualm discharged, let us begin by saying that locating a reliable bookie is usually the least of a would-be gambler's problems. The key word is "referral." Everyone knows someone who knows a bookmaker. Your best bet is a bartender. Any bartender. "A bartender who cannot put you in touch with either a bookie or someone who knows a bookie is a bartender not long for his profession," says one barkeep we know.

One need not have a longstanding relationship with a particular pub before popping the question. Just look for a joint with no dance floor, at least one television and a bacon-cheeseburger as the specialty of the house. On your second or third trip in (it doesn't hurt to leave a little extra gratuity) casually say to the man behind the stick, "Listen, the guy I've been using the past couple of years moved to Vegas, and I've been looking for someone I can get some action down with this coming season."

Voila! More than likely you will be given a phone number and a reference. Once connected, follow this simple set of rules to stay connected.

Choosing your sobriquet. When dealing with a bookmaker, never use your real name, even if you're such a nickel-and-dime bettor that the cops would laugh in your face if you turned yourself in. But don't go overboard; the best way to get yourself off on the wrong foot is to call and say something like, "This is Johnny High-Low from Reno, and The Stick Man says you're looking for some real action." Keep it simple. Initials, preferably not yours, will do.

The cash standards. Let the book know up front how much and how often you intend to bet, within a reasonable framework. "Nothing burns me more than a customer who has been laying down, say, between \$100 and \$500 per week suddenly wanting to get in with \$10,000," says our consultant. The proposition is embarrassing if he can't handle it. If you do suddenly find a need to go way over your normal limit, always ask, never tell.

Stay within business hours. Your bookie will tell you when he works. Never call

outside that timespan. Like you and me, he hates to be bothered at home.

The rules. In the beginning, his rules are the only rules. The potential investor will often be asked to put his money up beforehand, usually through that same friendly bartender. This is not a slur on your character. It is merely, and obviously, sound business practice. Do not be offended. In good time, this annoyance shall pass. **Keep to the payment schedule.** This is crucial. Ascertain when, where and how weekly debits and credits are exchanged, and, at the risk of your kneecaps, stick to this schedule. Payday is usually Tuesday, very often in the bar where you first made your connection.

Also, remember that bookies are an avaricious lot. Payments can usually be worked out. Says one New York bookie: "Listen, I get a new customer and he loses, pays; loses, pays; loses, pays; loses and needs some time—I'm accommodating. But a guy wins, wins, wins, loses and says he needs some time, I turn him over to my leg breaker."

Never lie. Most bookies tape bets that are phoned in. "And I hate it when I have to go back over the damn tapes," says our book. Make sure he was wrong before forcing him to do so.

Never gloat. Should you be one of the fortunate few to actually come away with a winning season, it is extremely poor form to bid your book adieu with, say, "So long, sucker. Get your bank book built up for next year." It is incomprehensible that your bookie would have lost money over the course of a season. Gloating over ill-gotten gains can only lead to bad karma.

If the relationship turns sour anyway, don't worry. Simply find a neighborhood tavern, walk in, and say to the bartender, "Listen, the guy I've been using..." —*Bob Drury*

ADVENTURE

TODAY THE SUNFISH, TOMORROW THE CUP



There comes a time every summer when I sit on the beach, watch sailboats cut the surf, and dream: If only I had Ted

Turner's assets, I'd buy one of those 12-meter babies and teach the Aussies a thing or two about pinching America's Cup. It was with that view of sailing that I traveled to Connecticut's Lake Quassapaug Yacht Club to take my turn at the helm of one of the vessels that compose the largest class of racing yachts in the world: the Sunfish. Yes, *that* Sunfish—the ubiquitous little 14-foot boat with the triangular sail.

Never mind that as a sailor I can't find my aft with both hands. That doesn't matter to my instructor, Will White, a two-time national Sunfish champion. "Sailing is something you can pick up in an afternoon," he explains as two assistants carry the boat down to the shore. "Of course, you can spend a lifetime learning how to make it go a little faster."

In about five minutes the mast and sail are up and the boat is ready to go.

But first I get a diagrammed lecture of the dynamics of sailing, tacking (moving the sail to catch the wind) and righting the boat when it capsizes, a



I wonder if Dennis Conner got his start with the Sunfish. It turns out he did.

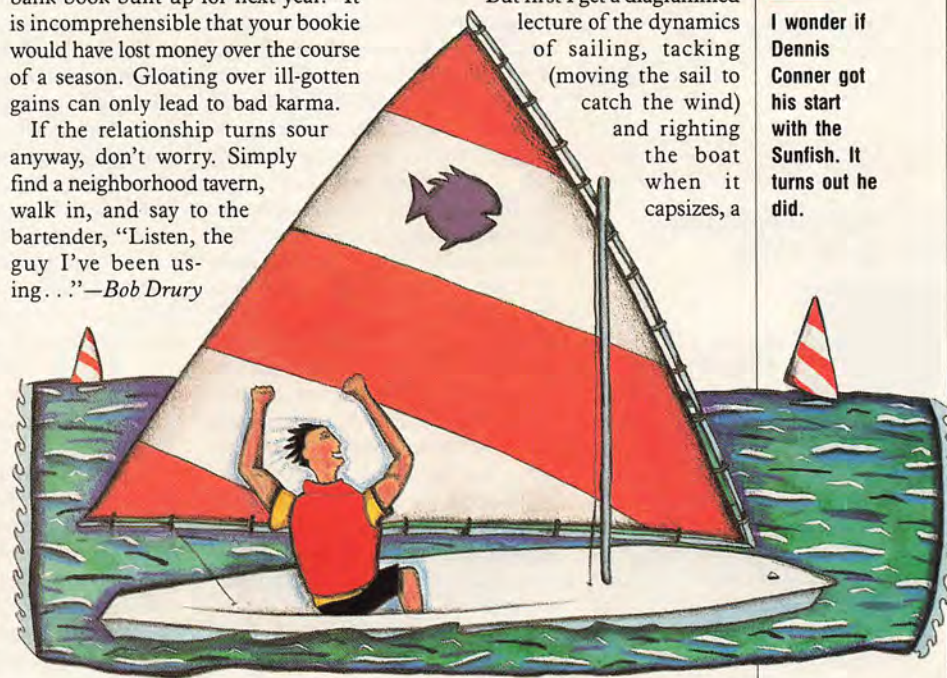


ILLUSTRATION BY SUSAN COHEN

comforting thought. "The Sunfish is virtually unsinkable," White assures me as I push off from shore. "I know people who have sailed the boat in gale force winds with no problems."

A quick scan of the cloudless sky dispels any fears of trial by tempest, but I spend the next few minutes foundering about. The boat moves in fits and starts, then the boom begins swinging menacingly; before long, my SPORT cap is deposited in the drink. I wonder if America's Cup skipper Dennis Conner got his start this way.

It turns out he did. With a Sunfish, of all things. "I think you'll find that the best sailors who race the America's Cup class yachts started with the small sailboats," White says later.

Just when it appears as if it will take a lifetime to learn how to get this thing moving in a straight line, everything clicks at once. The sail fills, a gentle tug on the mainsheet acts like a push on the accelerator, and off we go. The rest of the afternoon is, ahem, a breeze, concluding with a heady journey across the lake into the wind. By the time I hit shore, the competitive fires are stoked. White points out that there are about 500 Sunfish fleets around the country that offer regular weekend racing to the public for a small fee.

The money is not a problem; the Sunfish costs only \$1,300, so you don't need to be Ted Turner to race one. But there is one problem with the Sunfish that I find hard to live with. It's so small, there's no room for the wet bar. And the cabin boy will have to sit.

—John Rolfe

ROAD TRIP

THE NOT-SO-FAMOUS HALLS OF FAME



August 3 is the big day in Cooperstown, New York. Willie McCovey, Bobby Doerr and Ernie Lombardi will join the other 193 enshrinees in baseball's Hall of Fame. With no disrespect to Willie, et al., it seems necessary to point out that there's been a certain diminution of the title "Hall of Famer."

In case you haven't noticed, the

flame of fame is burning brightly—indeed, blindingly—across the land. Halls of fame are being opened at the rate of one per month, dotting the landscape like franchised muffler shops. There is even a company called Professional Sports Hall of Fame, Inc., that franchises sports halls of fame; it has created a Professional Sports Hall of Fame in Philadelphia and has plans to create similar operations in 12 cities. Immortality is not what it used to be; call it McFame.

Since baseball's Hall of Fame opened in 1939, nearly every sport has copied the idea. There are halls of fame for football, basketball, hockey, tennis, boxing, horse racing, swimming, lacrosse, skiing, roller skating and dog mushing. Professional wrestlers have at least 10 halls of fame.

There is a hall of fame within an hour's drive of nearly every American. These days, fame mavens have numerous choices.

The National Bowling Hall of Fame in St. Louis, for instance, features a huge diorama of that famous kegler Martin Luther, who can also be found in the Christian Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, which is within field-goal range of the Football Hall of Fame, which has yet to admit Luther.

You can catch the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame in Memphis, or get hooked on the National Fresh-Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin.

At the National Weightlifting Hall of Fame in York, Pennsylvania, you can pay your respects to "Mighty Atom," who could pull 28 tons with his hair, bend horseshoes with his teeth and break chains with a puff of his chest. Or try the Oak Hill Country Club near Rochester, New York, which has a "Hill of Fame" dotted with monuments, in the form of oak trees, to the winners of the major golf championships played there. In addition to people like Arnold Palmer, there are monuments to notable amateurs, like Richard Nixon.

Of course, the fame virus has spread well beyond the sports world. Consider the Pickle-Packing Hall of Fame in St. Charles, Illinois; the Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio; the National Dance Hall of Fame in Saratoga, New York; and three halls of

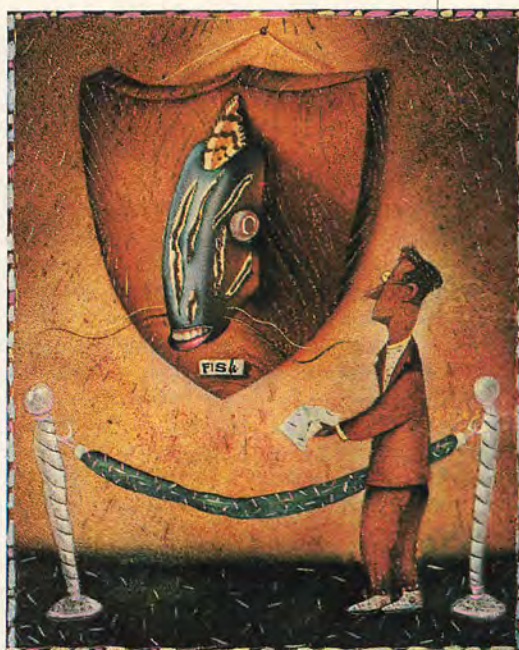


ILLUSTRATION BY LANE SMITH

fame in Oklahoma City—for photographers, cowboys and softball players.

We also have the Inventors Hall of Fame, the Truck Drivers Hall of Fame, the National Women's Hall of Fame (not to be confused with the more broad-minded Women's Hall of Fame) and the Hall of Fame for Business Leadership, whose members include George Washington (a truly famous person, who is also a member of the National Agriculture Hall of Fame).

Real connoisseurs of fame won't want to miss the National Taxidermists Hall of Fame, in Haneyville, Pennsylvania. It has one of the world's largest collections of stuffed animals, including a kob (that's a kind of antelope) felled by Teddy Roosevelt. Thus far, 29 taxidermists have been enshrined there. Most of them are dead, but none of them is stuffed.

Los Angeles may be the Hall of Fame of halls of fame: there are 41 halls in L.A., including the Count Dracula Horror Society Hall of Fame and the Citizens Savings Hall of Fame. A strong possibility for a forty-second hallowed hall is the proposed Exotic Dancers Hall of Fame. So far it's a paper organization, but there are plans for a building that will house, you should pardon the expression, busts of such notable ecdysiasts as Candy Barr, Tempest Storm and the immortal Chesty Morgan (size 60). Space will be at a premium in this one.

—William Eckenberger

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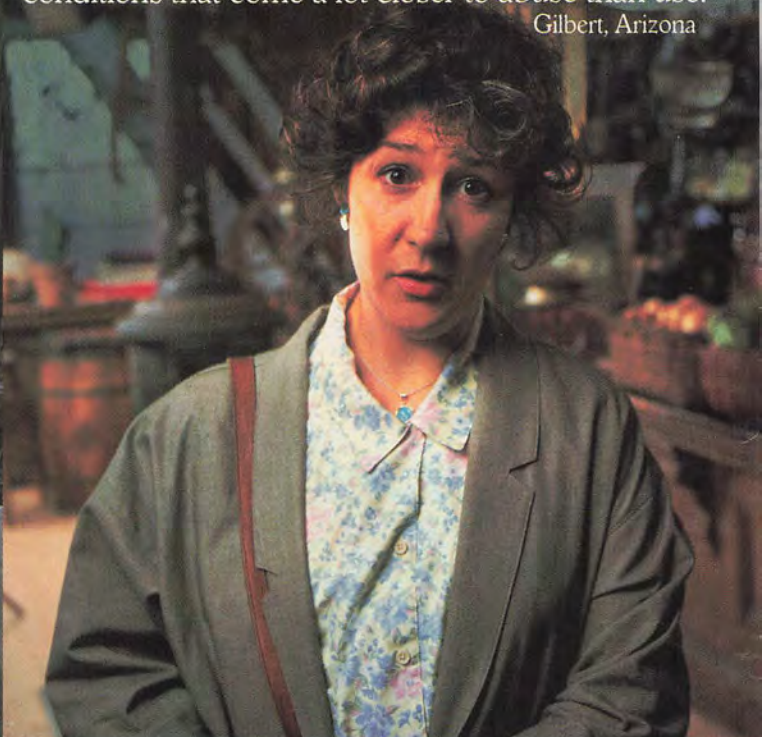
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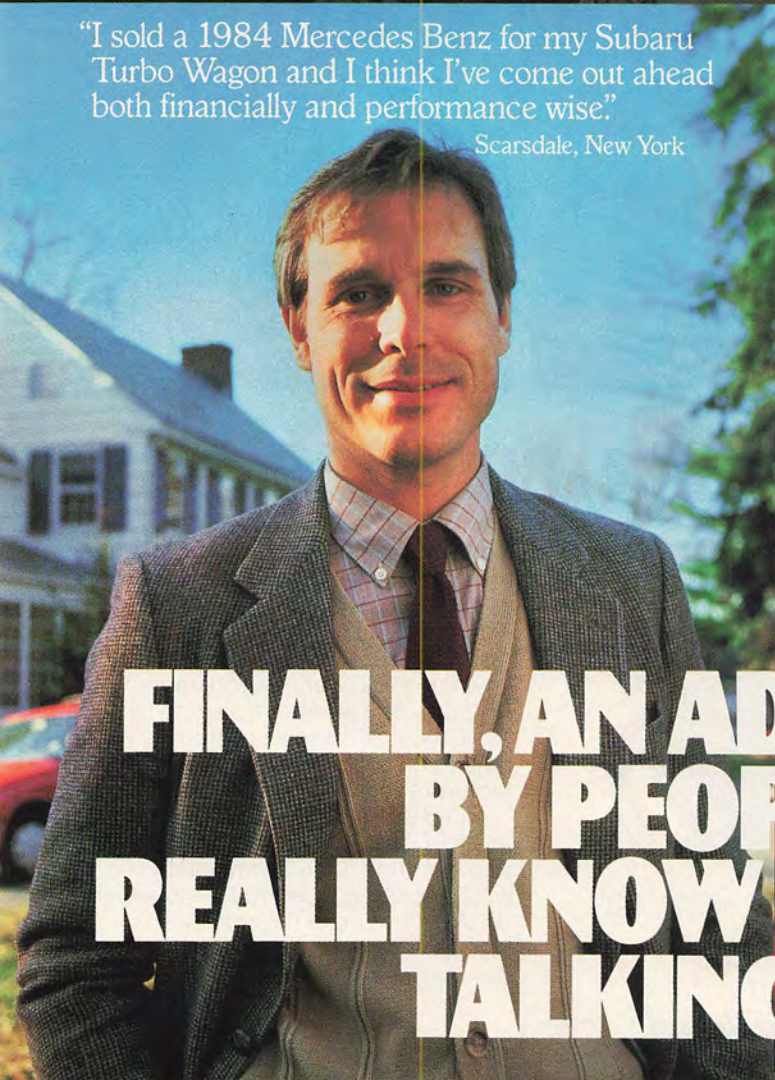


"I've driven my Subaru over 80,000 miles under conditions that come a lot closer to abuse than use." Gilbert, Arizona



"I sold a 1984 Mercedes Benz for my Subaru Turbo Wagon and I think I've come out ahead both financially and performance wise."

Scarsdale, New York



"Even during some of the coldest winters in Minnesota I got the mail through in my Subaru."

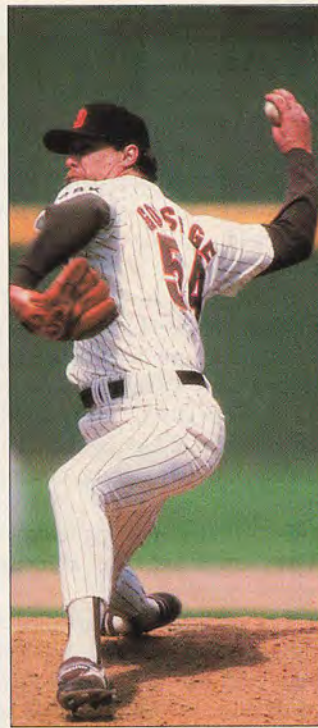
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1. Which active pitcher has allowed the most home runs in All-Star Games (4)?



a. Fernando Valenzuela b. Vida Blue

c. Dave Stieb

d. Goose Gossage

2. Reggie Jackson now ranks sixth on the all-time list of home run hitters. Name the five players who are ahead of him.

3. The Raiders have a 24-3-1 record in games played on Monday nights. What three teams have handed the Raiders their Monday night defeats?

4. One active defensive back has led the NFL in interceptions three times without ever returning one for a touchdown. Who is he?

- a. Ronnie Lott
- b. Mike Haynes
- c. Everson Walls
- d. Lester Hayes

5. Last year, Lorenzo White of Michigan State became the fourth player named White to win an NCAA Division I-A rushing championship. Name the other three.

6. Which coach began each season by holding up a football before his players and saying, "A prolate spheroid—that is,

an elongated sphere—in which the outer leathern casing is drawn tightly over a somewhat smaller rubber tubing. It's better to have died as a small boy than to fumble this"?

- a. Vince Lombardi
- b. Bear Bryant
- c. John Heisman
- d. Knute Rockne

7. Name the three NFL teams that have suffered losing seasons the year after they appeared in the Super Bowl.

8. Match the NBA player with his nickname.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| a. Dominique Wilkins | 1. Chief |
| b. Robert Parish | 2. Zoid |
| c. Xavier McDaniel | 3. Mountain Man |
| d. Danny Vranes | 4. Lou |

9. Prior to the 1985-86 NHL season, the last four teams that captured the Stanley Cup were repeat champions. Name the last team that won the Cup without winning it again the following year.

10. Fourteen active players have represented both the American and the National Leagues in the All-Star Game. Which player is *not* one of them?

- a. Claudell Washington
- b. Tommy John
- c. Bob Boone
- d. Jason Thompson

11. Brigham Young University has led Division I-A football in total offense five times in the last seven years. Name the other two schools that have led in offense during that time.

12. The only 1-0 game in All-Star-Game history was played in 1968 at the Astrodome. Two of the six National League pitchers who combined to pitch the shut-out are still active. Name them.

THE STUMPER

Which was the first AFL team to defeat an NFL team? Which team did it beat and what was the final score?

Answer the Stumper and win a SPORT T-shirt. In case of a tie, we'll draw three winners. The Stumper answer will appear next month; other answers are on page 75. Send postcards only (with T-shirt size) to SPORT Quiz, 119 West 40th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10018, by July 25.

The six-second work week.

I am strapped inside the cockpit of an alcohol-fueled dragster. Beads of perspiration slowly trickle down my forehead. The heat is begging to escape, but it's suffocated by the fireproof driving suit, my second skin. The helmet is like a vise locked around my head and I have no choice but to taste the chemicals in the padding. But that's okay. I'm used to that by now.

Looking down the long, narrow nose that ends on two bicycle-sized tires, I feel only the supercharged 1,500-horsepower engine quaking right behind my head. Top speed: around 200 miles per hour. One football field per second. My sweaty, clammy hands are wrapped in silver gloves that reach my elbows. They embrace the steering wheel, tightly.

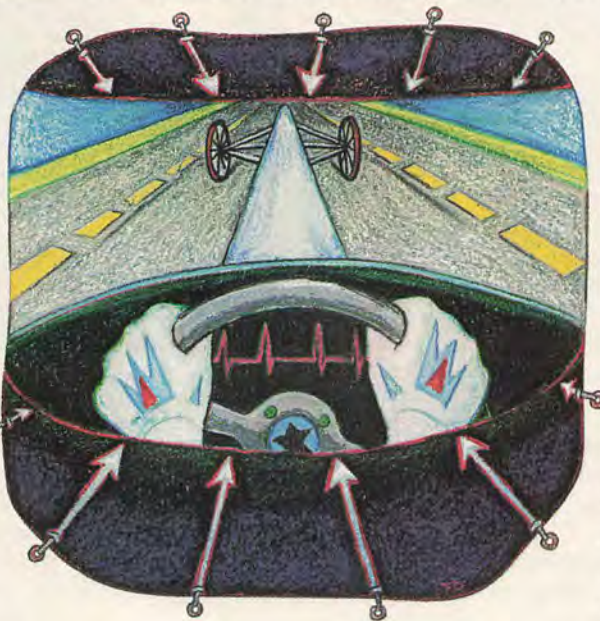
The cockpit is cramped. Machinery surrounds me; the steering wheel had to be twisted so I could slide in. Movement is severely restricted. The seat belts are so tight that my shoulders ache. The only part of my body that moves freely is my heart; that's pounding away like a jackhammer. I wonder if it's visible through the suit. My mind races like the engine, the brain's rpm's almost reaching the breaking point. Fear and exhilaration battle for control. Are all the instruments in place? I check the hand brake. Okay. The fire extinguisher? All right. The fuel cut-off? Over there. The reverser lever? In the forward position. The chutes? Oh no, where are the parachutes? Right where they should be, on the roll bar. The panic is quelled. The gearshift button is pulled out into the low position. The oil pressure is steady at 100.

I flip down my visor and hot air immediately fills the helmet, fogging my vision and making breathing a chore. But I nod my head to Frank Hawley, the world champion drag racer and my starter. He waves me on. The engine roars. I look down the long quarter-mile raceway in anticipation and take a deep breath.

I release the clutch and push down on the throttle. The huge rear tires squeal as they spin. The engine counters with

an ear-splitting whine. The car jumps forward. Fifty feet down the track, I add more throttle and a smoky cloud billows behind the dragster. I apply the hand brake almost immediately, but I'm already a few hundred feet down the track from the starting line. The dragster halts. Good burnout.

One of the first things we learned, here at The Drag Racing School in Gainesville, Florida, was that the most important preliminary chore for a successful run in a dragster is a good burnout. First,



it heats the tires for better traction. Second, it lays down a hot, sticky path—almost a groove—for the car to follow on the track. In a good burnout, the tires smoke so much the car is barely visible from the back.

I pull the reverser toward me with my left hand and the dragster moves backward. Without looking, I ease the car back at about 10 mph until I see Hawley, who was the National Hot Rod Association World Driving Champion in 1982 and 1983 and is now the school's chief instructor. His presence momentarily eases my anxiety as he guides me to the starting line. On the first day of the three-day training course, Hawley showed us frightening videotapes of fiery collisions. It's not easy driving this thing. As Hawley likes to say, "A lot of great drivers come to the school and a lot of humble ones leave." Even the professionals crash.

I swallow hard. This run today is what everybody looks forward to. The entire quarter-mile track consumed in six seconds. Zero to 100 in under two seconds. This is the reason more than 200 students have paid \$2,000 each since the school opened in May 1985—the full pass.

The car creeps forward to the pre-stage light. I go over the routine once again in my mind. My hands finger the steering wheel with my thumb resting on the gearshift button. I creep the car forward again, slowly releasing the clutch and adding a touch of throttle. Now I'm staged. The second set of yellow lights are lit on the "Christmas tree," the string of colored bulbs that counts down the start of drag races. It will be only seconds now.

I glance over at the concrete wall on the left side of the track. In the prerun talk, Hawley tells me not to worry if the dragster moves a foot or two toward the wall. Just don't hit it.

Three amber lights, then the green. In one swift motion I release the hand brake, let up the clutch and stomp on the throttle. My head snaps back from the force of the acceleration. My eyeballs feel like they're popping out of their sockets. Time stops. I don't think about what I have to do. I just do it.

The car is flying down the track. I shift into high gear. I tightly grip the wheel, maybe too much. The car begins to swerve. Damn. I ease off the throttle, gently turn the wheel, and the swerving stops. Now I can see my destination. It is time to release the parachute, but the car is moving so fast I'm afraid to let go of the wheel to push the release. But I have to. I push down hard on the lever. C'mon chutes, open. Where are the damn chutes? They open, and the force rocks me back again. I hit the fuel cutoff and apply the hand brake.

My speed decreases slowly. Enjoyably. I relax. By the time the crew gets to me I've taken off my gloves and unbuckled the seat belts. I climb out, remove the helmet, wipe the sweat from my forehead, look back down the track and smile. ★

A man with a mustache, wearing a white cowboy hat and a brown leather vest over a dark shirt, is shown in profile, looking to the left. He is holding a lit cigarette in his mouth. His right hand is partially visible, holding a pack of Marlboro cigarettes. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric.

Come to where the flavor is.



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**1986
Monday Night
Football Guide**



Heineken

Monday Night Football Guide

Sept. 8	Giants at Dallas	9 PM
Sept. 11 (Thurs)	New England at Jets	8 PM
Sept. 15	Denver at Pittsburgh	9 PM
Sept. 18 (Thurs)	Cincinnati at Cleveland	8 PM
Sept. 22	Chicago at Green Bay	9 PM
Sept. 29	Dallas at St. Louis	9 PM
Oct. 6	San Diego at Seattle	9 PM
Oct. 13	Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	9 PM
Oct. 20	Denver at Jets	9 PM
Oct. 27	Washington at Giants	9 PM
Nov. 3	L.A. Rams at Chicago	9 PM
Nov. 10	Miami at Cleveland	9 PM
Nov. 17	San Francisco at Washington	9 PM
Nov. 20 (Thurs)	L.A. Raiders at San Diego	8 PM
Nov. 24	Jets at Miami	9 PM
Dec. 1	Giants at San Francisco	9 PM
Dec. 7 (Sun)	Dallas at L.A. Rams	9 PM
Dec. 8	L.A. Raiders at Seattle	9 PM
Dec. 15	Chicago at Detroit	9 PM
Dec. 19 (Fri)	L.A. Rams at San Francisco	8 PM
Dec. 22	New England at Miami	9 PM

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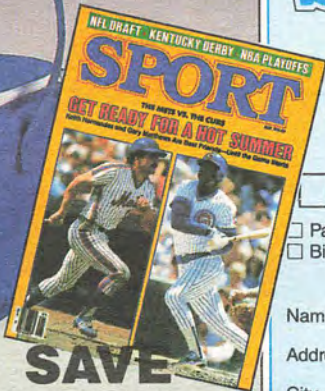


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